FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

11 MAY 1987

Gulf Conflict

Shipping Attacks — A Soviet cargo vessel en route to the Saudi port of Al-Damman was "seriously damaged" 6 May during a "piratical raid" by "unmarked launches," TASS reported. The agency noted that AP attributed the attack to Iran. According to Delhi radio, an Indian tanker in the southern Gulf was hit by missiles from Iranian gunboats 11 May.

Aircraft Losses — A military source told INA 9 May that an Iraqi plane on a training mission crashed in the Mahshahr area due to a "technical malfunction." A communique cited by IRNA had claimed that Iranian antiaircraft fire downed a MIG-21 in the same sector. The communique also noted that an Iraqi helicopter was shot down near Sar Dasht.

Iranian Policy, Diplomacy — Any "hostile confrontation" of Islamic Iran will cause the United States "further irreparable defeats," a Foreign Ministry spokesman warned 9 May. In remarks cited by Tehran radio, the spokesman "severely condemned" the U.S. stance against Iran and advised the United States and its allies to "stop showing their teeth" in the Gulf and to end their "fruitless support" for Iraq. Following a cabinet meeting the next day, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi told Tehran radio that Iran is "serious" about not allowing the Gulf to become an "arena" for "East-west rivalry." He stressed that Kuwait and other regional countries will suffer more than Iran in the event of a Gulf "crisis." Musavi also noted that the cabinet had discussed ways to minimize the effect of the falling dollar on oil revenues and import costs.

In diplomatic action, Acting Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati and UAE President Shaykh Zayid Ibn Sultan al Nuhayyan exchanged views on regional concerns, especially security in the Gulf, IRNA reported 10 May. Besharati reiterated that vessels carrying oil and other cargo for Iraq will be regarded as Iraqi ships subject to attack. The Iranian official criticized Kuwait's "collaboration" with Iraq and praised the UAE's "wise attitude" toward Iran as exemplary in the region. According to WAKH, Besharati gave the UAE president a message from Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i.

Israel

The debate on the international conference issue was not concluded during the 11 May Inner Cabinet meeting, Jerusalem radio announced in a report at the end of the session. The Inner Cabinet will continue its deliberations in another meeting on 13 May, prior to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' departure for Washington, the radio added.

Peres had earlier told the radio that he favors elections this year, asserting that the people should be asked whether they want to launch a peace process or "regress." If the cabinet rejects negotiations, there will be a return to hostility and disappointment, he said, and the Arabs will seek military and other alternatives. On the question of PLO participation in a peace conference, Peres pointed out that Jordan has presented conditions that effectively prevent the PLO from attending, and he contended that Jordan's conditions are harsher than those laid down by the United States. The radio also broadcast Peres' remark that a visit to the Middle East by Secretary of State George Shultz could be "very important" and "highly productive." Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's suggestion that Shultz visit the region to consolidate a framework for negotiations may prove to be a stalling tactic aimed at postponing a cabinet crisis, the radio said, noting that a concrete decision on the international conference issue could be delayed if Shultz is invited.

Lebanon

Envoys of President Amin al-Jumayyil held talks in Damascus with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam 10 May, Radio Monte Carlo reported, noting that the resumption of Lebanese-Syrian talks on political reform follows a 6-week suspension in the negotiations following the Lebanese opposition's rejection of President al-Jumayyil's proposals. Khaddam met with Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni the previous day, according to SANA.

In another political development, President al-Jumayyil discussed current developments with former President Sulayman Franjiyah during a visit to Zgharta, Beirut radio reported. A car bomb explosion in Zgharta the same day killed 1 person and injured 34 others, the radio disclosed.

Normal air traffic resumed at Beirut Airport 11 May, Voice of Lebanon radio announced. The chairman of Middle East Airlines, the Lebanese carrier, had earlier told Beirut radio that the reopening of the airport follows an agreement on new terms with the insurance companies.

Among further reportage on Israel's 8 May air attack near Sidon, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio stated that the raid killed 10 people and injured 40. A spokesman for Abu Nidal's Fatah-Revolutionary Council announced that its fighters may carry out reprisal operations, according to the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio.

Iran on the Arab-Israeli Conflict

An Iranian Foreign Ministry condemned the 8 May Israeli air raid in a statement broadcast by Tehran radio, asserting that Israel's killing of Palestinian Muslim civilians shows that its efforts to promote the "so-called Middle East peace" are simply a "sinister pretense" aimed at misleading world public opinion. President 'Ali Khamene'i also discussed the Arab-Israeli conflict in a Friday sermon reported by the radio, warning that talk of unity among Arab governments on the Palestinian issue is only acceptable if it means unity in struggle against Israel. However,

if such unity means dragging the "progressive" Arab states into compromise alongside Jordan, Egypt, and Morocco, this spells "utter shame" for the Arab world, he asserted.

PLO

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat was received by Saudi King Fahd in Riyadh 10 May, SPA reported. During his earlier visit to the UAE, 'Arafat told the local paper *Al-Khalij that a PLO delegation headed by deputy military* commander Khalil al-Wazir will visit Damascus soon to continue the dialogue with Syria and with Palestinian factions that did not attend the Algiers PNC, WAKH noted. However, Palestinian sources cited by the UAE's *Al-Ittihad* maintained that the Syrians have informed PFLP leader George Habash they will not receive any PLO delegation in the near future.

Libya

In a 9 May commentary, JANA's international affairs editor accused the United States of leading a "fierce political and information campaign" against the so-called threat of a Libyan "presence" in the South Pacific. Decrying U.S. "insolence," the editor expressed confidence that the peoples of Oceania can distinguish between those who want to "rob" them and those who want to "bolster their rights."

Western Sahara

According to a Saharan communique cited by Algiers radio, 93 Moroccan soldiers were killed and 13 taken prisoner during a "large-scale battle" in the Farsia area 8 May. During the battle, which was part of a "general offensive" against the Moroccan defense walls, Polisario troops captured a large quantity of weapons and documents.

Afghanistan

A BAKHTAR statement 9 May stressed the DRA's "profound concern" over the "further deterioration" of relations with Pakistan. Terming the Pakistani Government a "stooge of American imperialism," the statement called attention to the "grave consequences" of continued "provocations." At a news conference for foreign reporters held the previous day and carried by Kabul radio, Foreign Minister 'Abdol Wakil commented that considering the increased threat from the United States and Pakistan, the DRA cannot ask the Soviet Union to withdraw the rest of its "limited contingent." Wakil denied that the policy of national reconciliation is failing, and he accused "warmongering forces" of trying to obstruct the policy by escalating their "terroristic activities." On the subject of exiled King Zahir, the foreign minister reiterated that "all Afghans" are invited to participate in forming a national unity government.

In remarks cited by AFP 8 May, Golboddin Hekmatyar, leader of the Islamic Party of Afghanistan, announced that the Islamic Alliance of the Mujahidin is planning elections to constitute an assembly with the objective of strengthening unity among the resistance parties and facilitating international recognition. The elections will be held in refugee camps in Pakistan and Iran as well as in "liberated areas" of Afghanistan. Afghan sources in Pakistan told AFP that still at issue among the alliance parties are the possible roles of other resistance groups and the former king.

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'Abdol Wakil Gives News Conference on Reconciliation
LD082328 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 8 May 87

[News conference by Foreign Minister 'Abdol Wakil at the Foreign Ministry in Kabul on 8 May; — recorded]

[Text] [Wakil] You have come to Afghanistan at a time when people full of enthusiasm are striving for the victory of the humanitarian policy of national reconciliation. The declaration of this policy opened a new chapter in the history of the national and democratic revolution. You, esteemed journalists representating the most prestigious of your nations' media, who play an important role in informing the people, can become the ambassador of the peace message of Afghanistan's people and deliver their just demand to the people of the world.

[Moderator] Question by an ABC correspondent: Why is your national reconciliation policy failing?

[Wakil] I do not know where you got this impression. The facts contradict this. The national reconciliation policy has been warmly welcomed by all the people of the DRA, both inside the country and those living abroad. The urgent demand of our people is for an end to war and fratricide, and a guarantee of a nationwide peace. They are weary of war and fratricide.

The (?invitation) of the DRA Party and State leadership to all the opposition forces to carry out talks and seek acceptable accords is aimed at establishing a peaceful situation in Afghanistan, and is in complete conformity with our goal of ensuring a prosperous future for Afghanistan. So far more than 1,600 national reconciliation commissions have been established in the country. More than 21,000 members of armed opposition groups have laid down their arms and joined the national reconciliation process. Serious talks are being carried out with 1,100 other groups with a total membership of 100,000.

Despite the various obstacles created by Pakistani and Iranian authorities and extremist groups, more than 44,000 emigres have returned home. Thousands of people who were imprisoned on charges of armed activities against the state and other crimes against the security of people have been pardoned and released. The State has also pardoned the crimes of all those who return to homeland, and according to the law it returns their property.

Despite these measures, certain leaders of extremists groups — whose existence is linked with financial and military assistance from the United States and other reactionary and Western countries — have intensified their terrorist activities and oppose the unilateral cease-fire declared by the state. By so doing they hope to frustrate the national reconciliation process. The state will give a decisive response to such activities, and will defend the homeland and its interests.

The gap between supporters of peace and forces who want war is becoming clearer for our people. This explains why the United States, Pakistan, and Iran are against our national reconciliation policy and are putting very modern weapons, including Stinger missiles, at the disposal of the extremist groups.

After the announcement of national reconciliation, armed provocation was intensified around the borders of our country, both qualitatively and quantitatively. Efforts have been made by various means to prevent the return of our compatriots to their country. Maybe the establishment of peace in Afghanistan will not be very beneficial for the designers and organizers of new globalism from the political standpoint. Maybe all the tension in Afghanistan and its surroundings will be useful for their strategic plans. If this is the case you can assess that the national reconciliation policy has not been successful.

[Moderator] A second question from the ABC reporter: How much damage has the use of Stinger missiles caused in Afghanistan, and how many aircraft are being brought down each week?

[Wakil] During the current year one passenger plane, an Antonov-26 with 40 passengers on board, was shot down by a Stinger missile made in the United States. In the past year two Afghan planes which were carrying passengers were shot down, most probably by the same type of missile.

After the proclamation of the national reconciliation policy the United States decided to put 600 Stinger missiles at the disposal of the extremist opposition groups, which surely will contribute to the continuation of war.

[Moderator] Another question from the same reporter: How much longer do the Soviet Union forces need to remain in Afghanistan? Why were no more Soviet troops pulled out of Afghanistan after the proclamation of the cease-fire on 15 January of the current year?

[Wakil] As you know, the Soviet Union's limited contingents arrived in our country at the request of the lawful government of Afghanistan to remove the danger that threatened its independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity. Therefore, these units will return to their peace-loving country upon the agreement of the DRA and Soviet Union, when the reasons which brought about the request for assistance from the Soviet Union — that is to say, armed interference from abroad in our internal affairs — are completely eradicated.

Similarly, complete cessation of interference and guarantee of its nonrepetition in the future is the fundamental subject of the Geneva talks. Once this objective is achieved, a reasonable time-table will be constructed for the return of the limited units of the Soviet Union.

As you know, six regiments from the limited units of the Soviet Union, in accordance with bilateral accord, returned to their country in October last year. We were calculating that the organizer of the undeclared war — above all, the United States and Pakistan — in the light of our unilateral initiative, would take practical steps toward the reduction and cessation of interference. Not only has this not taken place, but Washington and Islamabad have intensified the war against Afghanistan. The size of deliveries of advanced and destructive weapons to the extremist opposition groups has been increased.

The armed forces of Pakistan are embarking on provocations and aggression on our borders, and the military aircraft of Pakistan repeatedly violate the sanctitity of our airspace and shoot down our transport and passenger planes. The threat to our country has been increased. Under these circumstances, how can you expect that the DRA to ask the Soviet Union to return her limited contingents to her country?

Afghanistan and the Soviet Union are making efforts to speed up the return of the limited Soviet contingents. However, in order for our efforts to succeed, foreign interference in the internal affairs of the DRA must cease.

[Moderator] Another question: What progress has been achieved in the Geneva talks? Would you consider participation by the leaders of the opposition in these talks?

[Wakil] During the some 5 years of Geneva talks between the DRA and Pakistan about the solution of events around Afghanistan the draft for four main documents have been prepared and to an extent have been completed. A number of important points, however, have not been solved yet.

In the third phase of the seventh rounds of these talks as a result of flexibility shown by the Afghan side, the gap has been narrowed between the positions of the two sides concerning the timetable for the return of the limited contingents of the Soviet Union.

If the United States and Pakistan, who are the main sources of pressure against our country, tackle the issues objectively and responsibly, we will surely succeed in reaching a final agreement during the next round of talks.

As you know the Geneva talks were convened merely to discuss issues around Afghanistan; internal affairs of the country are not being discussed. The DRA and Pakistan Governments represent the sides to these talks where the participation of the chieftains of the armed extremist opposition groups would be meaningless. What ought to be of interest to the chieftains of these groups is the national reconciliation policy which has been implemented inside the country.

The national reconciliation policy covers all possibilities for them to present their views within its framework and to sit with the government and discuss their views.

[Moderator] Another question by the same reporter: In your opinion how much longer will the war continue in Afghanistan?

[Wakil] The DRA has taken the practical and brave step of a cease-fire, announced on 15 January 1987. We are hoping that this action will lead to the complete halt and cessation of fratricide and war.

The increasing success of the national reconciliation policy has raised our hope for the speedy cessation of war. However, as you know the organizers and perpetrators of the undeclared war still dream of turning back the wheels of history in Afghanistan; and because of this, by using all possibilities, they are trying to destroy the national reconciliation process. In fact this action has confronted our peaceful efforts with obstacles and difficulties, and contributed to the contination of war. We fully believe however, that most distant masses in our country believe in the humane nature of the national reconciliation process and all will unite to take the position against war and warmongering forces.

[Moderator] Questions from a CNN journalist from the United States: First question: Can you give any figure on casualties of the DRA armed forces?

[Wakil] The imposed, undeclared war which has been waged against the DRA by the United States and its allies has cost us material and financial losses. Thousands of our compatriots, including our armed forces personnel have been martyred and maimed in this war. When the undeclared war ends in our country we will present to the world the total statistics and figures on the crimes committed by imperialism, reactionary forces, and their allies. We will honor proudly the memory of those who sacrificed their lives in defense of homeland and people.

[Moderator] Another question by the CNN correspondent: There have been reports that Babrak Karmal was arrested some time ago. What future does he have in Afghanistan?

[Wakil] It has been reported in our newspapers, including the daily *Haqiqat-E Enqelab-E Sawr* dated 5 May 1987, that Comrade Babrak Karmal, member of the PDPA Central Committee, in accordance with an invitation and as instructed by doctors, left for the USSR. Before leaving, Comrade Babrak Karmal had meetings with Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, and members and candidate-members of the Politburo and secretaries of the PDPA Central Committee. The details of his trip have been reported. The report of his imprisonment which this esteemed journalist mentions is rendered groundless by the (?objective side) of the issue. Obviously, those who spread the news wanted their wish to come true. Concerning Babrak Karmal's future in Afghanistan, I apologize for not being an astrologist who can tell people's futures. I hope that Comrade Karmal's future will be the same as that of the thousands of his party's comrades-in-arms and millions of our compatriots.

[Moderator] Questions by an AFP correspondent: First question: When will indirect talks with Pakistan be resumed? Are you expecting rapid, successful results in the framework of these talks?

[Wakil] We are ready to resume the Geneva talks at any appropriate time. We will do this when Islamabad shows it wants to achieve just and mutual acceptable agreements. They must do this with actions, not words. That country must also finally free itself of the pressure of the U.S. Administration and place the national interest of the people of Pakistan and peace and security in the region above the interest of the designers and organizers of neoglobalism. The date for the next round of talks will be fixed via diplomatic channels, according to the previous agreement in Geneva. Yes, we desire and we want rapid headway. We not only wish but will do everything in our power for this. The constructive and flexible stand of the DRA at the third stage of the seventh round of the talks was the sole reason that specific progress was

made. This brought both sides positions' closer. Now, in order for the talks to progress further, Pakistan should take a constructive and realistic stand.

[Moderator] A question by a correspondent of *Agence France Presse*: How do you assess PDPA unity at the present time?

[Wakil] The struggle for the prosperity and blossoming of the people of Afghanistan has been the principled objective of our party, which was formed more than 22 years ago, based on the country's national interest. The foreign and domestic enemies of the PDPA, who considered the division of the party as a basic tool to violate its noble goals from the very first days, resorted to conspiracy. Taking advantage of various disagreements, coming mainly from the socioeconomic backwardness of Afghanistan, the enemies of the PDPA found the opportunity to split party ranks during its history. The party ensured its unity in 1977, as a result of which it was able to lead our people, after 10 months, to the victory of an antifeudal, antiimperialistic and national and democratic April revolution. The enemies of the PDPA strive to raise a hue and cry on matters related to unity in party ranks and to hinder the process of normal growth of the party. But the iron unity of the members of the PDPA around its leadership, headed by Comrade Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, and their united support for the national reconciliation policy are the best negative answer to the self-created accusations.

[Moderator] Another question by the *Agence France Press* representative: Do you think it is possible for King Zahir to return to Afghanistan? Do you accept cooperation with him and to give him a share of power?

[Wakil] Our policy is clear concerning the participation of all Afghans in the political, economic and social structure of a progressive and prosperous Afghanistan, free from war and fratricide in the framework of forming a national unity government up to the coalition level.

[Moderator] A question by a correspondent from Kuwait: I have two questions. First, what is do you think of the Islamic conference which (?decided) in favor of an end to foreign inteference in the DRA's internal affairs, and secondly, what can be done to end the Middle East conflicts and the Iran-Iraq war?

[Wakil] I can say that the decisions made at the recent Islamic conference in Kuwait fortunately did not reflect the desires of U.S. imperialism, Saudi Arabia, and other regional reactionary forces and armed opposition groups. The recent ICO summit conference showed once again that the majority of the leaders of the Islamic countries have adopted a rational state of mind concerning the Afghan situation . A number of the leaders of Islamic countries at this conference officially expressed their support for Afghanistan's national reconciliation policy. Afghanistan has always considered itself a loyal member of the Islamic conference organization, and our campaign to regain membership in this conference is continuing. Ultimately we hope to regain membership in this Islamic conference.

The DRA's stand regarding the Iran-Iraq war is very clear. We are generally opposed to it, whether it is war between two countries or a regional war. The imperialist countries and the United States are inclined to support this war. They are fanning local and regional wars in various parts of the world such as Central America, Africa, and Asia. The Iran-Iraq war certainly is not in the interest of the people of Iran or Iraq. We, therefore, have always wanted an end to this war.

The only solution is to allow the people of Palestine to choose their destiny. At present Afghanistan supports the holding of an international conference to solve this issue.

[Moderator] Question by a correspondent from Bulgaria: How do you assess the efforts of Pakistan to buy U.S. (?AWACS) aircraft?

[Wakil] As I said at the begining, Pakistan and the United States, since the declaration of the national reconciliation policy, have thought that their sinister plans against Afghanistan's revolution were doomed to failure. Since then, they have resorted to vain efforts. They want to intensify military pressure against Afghanistan. Therefore, under the pretext of a so-called raid by Afghan aircraft on the Afghanistan-Pakistan border, they have resorted to purchasing very modern weapons.

In our view, the payments to purchase or rent (?AWACS) aircraft from the United States with their U.S. personnel, are part of the U.S. conspiracy and aggressive plans in the region,and those of its allies and its servant, namely Pakistan. (?The United States) lost its position in the region, in part of South Asia and in the Middle East after Reza Shah was overthrown and after the victory of the Afghan Revolution in April 1978. It considers Pakistan the only country in this region which it can equip and arm to fan the tension and danger against peace and security. The purchase of (?AWACS) aircraft as far as we know was opposed not only by the DRA but also by other countries including India. This purchase also faced serious confrontation in a recent assembly session in Pakistan. [sentence indistinct]

[Unidentified speaker] Allow me on behalf of you and myself to express thanks to our comrade foreign affairs minister, who has replied to your questions patiently and with necessary logic. We also thank you for your attention.

Statement Protests Pakistani Air Violations

LD100648 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 10 May 87

["Text" of BAKHTAR statement released at 9 May news conference held in Khowst District of Paktia Province]

[Text] Kabul, May 9 BAKHTAR — The provocative and aggressive activities of the military regime of Pakistan, which are quite incompatible with the international accepted norms, are intensifying day by day against the revolutionary Afghanistan, which are causing dangerous consequences in the relations between the two neighbouring countries and are undermining peace in the region.

The Pakistani militarists who are enjoying the full and comprehensive support of the U.S. imperialism and are equipped with

an enormous quantity of advanced American weapons have thus acted not only against the democratic rights and freedoms of the people of Pakistan, but they have done so against the will of the peace-loving peoples of our region. These Pakistani militarists have intensified their aggressive activities against our people and our country and have carried out criminal and inhuman actions against the sovereignty, national independence and the territorial integrity of our country either (?directly) or through the extremists attached to reaction and imperialism.

The heightening of instigations and imperialist aggressions through Islamabad military regime and the perpetration of destructive and instigative activities by Pakistani authorities levelled against the policy of national reconciliation, announced by the revolutionary sovereignty of Afghanistan for the ever sooner cessation of war anb bloodshed, is another strong reason lying behind the fact that Islamabad by implementing the plans earlier organised by the U.S. imperialism has adopted a position running counter to the maintenance of peace in the region and are committing new crimes against our free-born people.

Repeated border instigations and violations, intensification of armed aggressive activities against our country, the firing of ground-to-ground rockets on [words indistinct] regions alongside our borders, the equipping of extremists and anti-Afghan armed groups with sophisticated weapons like Blue Pipe [as received] rockets and Stinger and especially the firing of civilian and transport planes of the DRA by Islamabad militarists at the behest of Washington against our people are among the aggressive actions which have taken place against our country.

All of these activities are testifying to the fact that the military regime of Pakistan as a stooge of American imperialism is impudently aggravating the tension in the region and is ignoring the peaceful efforts of the DRA for securing a political solution for the situation around the DRA.

Our countrymen will never forget the horrible crime of the shooting down of a passenger plane, type Antonov 26 of the DRA, over the airspace of Samkani District of Paktia Province which were hit by air-to-air rockets fired from two American made F-16 fighter planes belonging to Pakistani Air Force on March 30, 1987.

As a result of the shooting down of the plane forty passengers and its crews including two children were cruelly killed.

The hirelings of reaction and imperialism under the direct instruction of the U.S. imperialism and the military regime of Pakistan intermittently hit and shot down two passenger and transport planes of the civil aviation of the DRA by American Stinger rockets as a result of which fifty two and thirty six innocent Afghans were martyred respectively.

The naked violation of the military regime of Pakistan in the air space of the DRA, is a clear example to this reality that the Pakistani authorities intend to create obstacles in the relations between the DRA and Pakistan.

On April 29, two F-16 fighter planes of the American make belonging to the Pakistani Air Force penetrated DRA airspace in the Paktia Province and continued their aggressive flights over the territory of the DRA.

The air and air defence forces of the DRA, upon immediately spotting the aggressive Pakistani fighter planes gave warning signals to them. But, the Pakistani planes without observing the signals continued their aggressive flights over the territory of the DRA.

Consequently, one of these planes while flying over the Khowst Grand District was shot down by the air and air defence forces of the DRA.

The discovery of an unexploded sidewinder air-to-air rocket of the American make, recently, in the Khowst Grand District reveals this fact that the Pakistani F-16 fighter planes equipped with such type of rockets had futile intentions to attack the air and air defence forces of the DRA.

Now, it is quite clear to everyone that the Pakistani authorities in addition to committing such aggressive acts against the DRA, impede in every way the return of our compatriots, still stranded in Pakistan. They have not yet paid any attention so far, to the repeated demands of the DRA.

The Government of the DRA, in line with the decision of the people of Afghan and peace-loving people of Pakistan as well as peoples in the region while realising the conspiracies and provocative plans of the military regime of Pakistan which is getting broader dimensions by every passing day aimed at hampering peace and stability in favour of greedy interests of imperialist power, has expressed its profound concern to the further deterioration of the situation between Afghanistan and Pakistan and our region's peace.

The state committee of *Bakhtar Information Agency* while severely condemning these provocative acts of the military regime of Pakistan, deems it as its prime duty to draw the attention of the Pakistani authorities to the grave consequences of such provocations which will further intensify tension between the two countries and attract their attention for stopping such provocations and act according to the demands of the Pakistani people. Otherwise, consequences of the Pakistani Armed Forces provocations against the DRA will rest with the Pakistani authorities.

Journalists Visit Crash Site

LD100630 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 10 May 87

[Text] Kabul, May 9, BAKHTAR — A press conference was held in Khowst Grand District of Paktia Province, bordering Pakistan, in connection with the repeated provocations, airspace violations and intensification of armed activities of Pakistani regime against Afghanistan.

The local and foreign journalists have visited the site where an Afghan Antnov-26 passenger plane was shot down by a U.S. made Stinger rocket there.

The journalists ahve also visited Salahuddins [name as received] village where the U.S. made surface-to-surface [as received] Sidewinder rocket was shown by the commander of Khowst garison to journalists. Two F-16 fighter planes which were equipped with such rockets intruded the air space of the DRA having futile intention of attacking Afghan air and air defence forces of the Armed Forces of the DRA.

The statement of the *Bakhtar Information Agency* was distributed during the press conference held there.

Answers were given on the policy of national reconciliation, repeated Pakistan's provocations and violation of the airspace of the DRA, firing of rockets on frontier residential localities.

The journalists have also been apprised on equipping of extremist groupings with sophisticated weapons like U.S. made surface-to-surface stinger, UK made Blue Pipe [as received], Chinese Strilado rockets which have already been introduced into the Pakistani army.

The visiting journalists had also meetings with those Afghans who had returned to their homeland, despite the hindrances created on the way of their return.

They also met with the family members of those who have fallen victim as a result of the shooting down of Antonov-26 passenger plane by a U.S.-made Stinger rocket.

Thirty six persons including children, women and old men have been martyred in this tragic action carried out by the extremists.

AFP Describes Press Conference

BK080849 Hong Kong AFP in English 0820 GMT 8 May 87

[By Sylvie Kauffmann]

[Text] Khost, Afghanistan, May 8 (AFP) — This trip to western Afghanistan, near its border with Pakistan, had been presented as being something of a jaunt. Kabul assured the 40 journalists who arrived aboard Afghan Army Antonov-26 troop transport aircraft it was "totally in control" of the Khowst area, and had no need to call on help from Soviet forces.

But, in the space of 10 minutes, that facade cracked as loudly as the four blasts which echoed round the mountainsides almost as soon as the Antonovs had touched down. The Afghans immediately scrambled helicopters to take a closer look at the ensuing plumes of smoke.

Local military chiefs offered bland appraisals of the overall situation, in contrast to the debris of warplanes and military helicopters that could be seen near the runway, as well as occasional explosions and a burst of automatic fire.

We were shown the hulk of an Afghan Antonov-26, hit on take-off on February 9 by a U.S.-made Stinger ground-to-air missile, according to Afghan reports at the time.

Khost District Military Commander General Ghulam Faruq said the missile had killed all 36 civilians on the plane — yet there are no civilian flights to the Afghan border regions.

The Afghans said 40 people had died on March 30 when a Pakistani F-16 jet fighter shot down another Antonov-26 some 50 kilometres (30 miles) to the north.

A convoy of military trucks, led by an armoured troop transport, then took us through the ricefields along unmade tracks to see an unexploded Sidewinder air-to-air missile that had purportedly fallen near a farm 19.5 kilometres (12 miles) from the border.

At that point official explanations lurched into unreality. The mud at this time of the year, during the rainy season, is so thick it stops trucks: yet here was the Sidewinder, lying on the ground in pristine condition.

A trembling old man, one of two brought forward as supposed witnesses, told us he had seen a Pakistani F-16 fire the missile on April 25. When asked how he knew it was an F-16 he backed down, saying only that it was a Pakistani aircraft.

Greater contradictions were to come. At a press conference, a military map hung up for the visitors' benefit said the Sidewinder had been fired on April 16, not April 25, adding that it had been fired from three kilometres (nearly two miles) inside Pakistan.

Officials were unable to explain the differing versions, merely saying that the witness was "only a farmer." General Faruq, however, had not seen fit to disabuse the old man, even though he had been at his side throughout the account.

Afghan officers told of a dogfight on April 29 between Afghan fighters and two Pakistani F-16s, one of which was shot down in Afghan airspace near Khost. Unfortunately the downed F-16 was in "barely accessible mountain country," and, "sorry, we were unable to see it."

Officials then launched into a tirade against Pakistan. Islamabad was training 815 rebels to use Stingers, 200 of which had already been supplied to the Mujahadin. Pakistan had violated Afghan airspace 20 times this year.

Afghanistan, on the other hand, had never overflown Pakistan or any other country, officials said, and had never bombed targets in Pakistan.

But according to eyewitness testimony, Afghan refugees on the other side of the border have suffered scores of casualties this year from Afghan bombing raids.

Journalists Asked To Leave

BK101126 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 10 May 87

[Text] A group of foreign journalists was told to leave Afghanistan Friday [8 May], less than 48 hours after they arrived in Kabul from Moscow on an arranged tour. The foreign minister of the Kabul regime, Mr Abdol Wakil, told an impromptu press

conference in Kabul on Friday that their visit had been curtailed due to, what he called, technical reasons. The journalists protested with the Kabul authorities for [words indistinct] departure.

Mujahidin Detail Planned Assembly, Elections

BK101546 Hong Kong AFP in English 1512 GMT 10 May 87

[Text] Islamabad, May 10 (AFP) — Afghan refugees in Iran and here, and mujahidin insurgents in Afghanistan will soon vote to elect a 332-strong constitutional assembly a spokesman for the mujahidin alliance, Maulawi Yunis Khales, said here Sunday.

The assembly, or shura, will draft an Islamic constitution and a chief judge with a strict enough Moslem approach would be elected to apply it, Mr Khales also told a news conference.

Mr Khales said the elections decided last week by the heads of the seven parties in the alliance, would last six months and start as soon as a 14-member election commission sets detailed voting procedures. The commission is to begin work on Tuesday.

He said 270 seats would go to delegates from inside Afghanistan chosen by guerrilla fighters. Fifty-two will be for party representatives elected in the refugee camps in Iran and Pakistan.

It has not been decided whether Shiite organizations in Iran not belonging to the alliance will be entitled to take part, the spokesman said.

He emphasized that women will not have the right to vote or be candidates, as Islam bars women from being judges.

The shura is to meet in Peshawar, western Pakistan, once the elections are over and will work out a draft "Islamic system", which will make it clear which chief should be elected to apply it, Mr Khales said.

The judge will be able to unify the military command, be represented abroad, and head the interim mujahidin government to be set up when Soviet forces leave Afghanistan, Mr Khales said.

Deposed King Zaher Shah would be excluded from the process because his participation would prevent Afghan opposition forces from reaching their goal, Mr Khales said, naming the goal as "a pure Islamic government."

Mujahidin Attack Military Convoy, Khad Office

BK101548 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 May 87

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin recently ambushed a military convoy in Zabol Province, killing 17 Soviet-Kabul soldiers. The military convoy had to pull back, leaving behind a tank and arms and ammunition. The mujahidin also reportedly hit the KHAD [State Information Service] headquarters in Qandahar with missiles, killing seven members of the KHAD.

Kandahar Official Assassinated

LD101625 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 10 May 87

[Excerpts] The High Commission for National Reconciliation reports that in continuation of their recent savage crimes, extremist elements belonging to the enemy, once again showed their hostility against the national reconciliation policy in the country and resorted to an unforgivable crime in Kandahar Province.

On Friday afternoon extremists elements martyred Haji Mohammad Aman, head of the National Reconciliation Commission of Kandahar City and acting head of the provincial council of Kandahar's National Front. [passage omitted: Koranic verse]

A BIA correspondent reports from Kandahar City that party and state officials and a number of citizens of Kandahar took part in the funeral ceremony yesterday. He was buried in his family cemetery.

150 Soviet-Kabul Troops Killed

BK110817 Karachi Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 11 May 87

[Text] In a series of operations during the last few days, 70 Soviet-Kabul troops have been killed in various parts of Afghanistan by the Mujahidin. Another report from Zabol Province says that the Afghan Mujahidin attacked a Soviet-Kabul military convoy killing 80 soldiers and captured 4 Soviet-Kabul troops.

4 Soviet Posts in Herat Taken

BK110649 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 11 May 87

[Text] In Afghanistan, the Mujahidin captured four Soviet-Kabul posts in Herat Province in an operation last month killing 20 soldiers. The reports say that after this successful operation, Kabul military planes made retaliatory attacks on [word indistinct] area of Herat Province killing 81 civilians and damaging 18 houses. According to reports, the Mujahidin also attacked a Soviet-Kabul military center in Lowgar Province killing or wounding 11 soldiers.

Keshtmand Receives Romanian Trade Minister

LD101026 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0442 GMT 10 May 87

[Text] Kabul, May 9, BAKHTAR — Soltan Ali Keshtmand, Politburo member of the PDPA CC and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the DRA, met Gheorghe Cazan, state minister for foreign trade of the Socialist Republic of Romania, heading a delegation of that country to Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

They have exchanged views on mutual economic and trade relations between the two countries. The chairman of the Council of Ministers of the DRA talked about the policy of national reconciliation and cooperation between the DRA and the Socialist Republic of Romania.

The state minister for trade of the Socialist Republic of Romania described the policy of national reconciliation in the DRA as a bold initiative of the party and state of the DRA and expressed all-sided support of the Government of Romania to this policy.

He handed over the message of the prime minister of that country to Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand. The message says that Romania will take part in a number of economic projects of Afghanistan in the current DRA's five-year socioeconomic development plan (1986-91).

Wakil Meets With Romanian Foreign Minister
LD101753 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 10 May 87

[Text] Comrade Abdul Wakil, member of the Politburo of the PDPA Central Committee and DRA foreign affairs minister, met this morning in his office at the Foreign Affairs Ministry with Comrade Totu Ioan, Romanian foreign affairs minister, who is on an official visit to Afghanistan.

During this meeting, views were exchanged on topics of mutual interest in connection with the expansion of bilateral relations and cooperation in various spheres.

Keshtmand Discusses Employment for Repatriates
LD110553 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 11 May 87

[Text] Kabul, May 10, BAKHTAR — All the facilities has been provided for those who return to the lap of their motherland from abroad, said Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, Politburo member of the PDPA CC, chairman of Council of Ministers of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan in a press conference held on the growth of national economy here.

Afghan emigrees who return to their country enjoy moral and material assistance are being extended by the state and the people. [sentence as received] They receive money and goods of primary necessity, their properties which have already been appropriated.

New opportunities for the employment of repatriates have also been considered.

The chairman of Council of Ministers of the DRA said, about 50 thousand Afghans have already returned to their homes and villages.

Outlines Economic Performance
LD110600 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT 11 May 87

[Text] Kabul, May 10, BAKHTAR — The volume of industrial production in state and private sectors of the national economy has increased 3.3 per cent during the last Afghan year, March 20, 1986 to March 21, 1987.

This was stated by Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, Politburo member of the PDPA CC, chairman of Council of Ministers of the DRA in a press conference held here.

Replying to a question on the increase of national production, the chairman of Council of Ministers said, the gross national product during last year has increased 3.5 percent.

A number of projects, Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand added, have been put into action during last year and the volume of retail sale in mixed and cooperative state sector has increased six per cent.

More than one hundred important projects have been built with the assistance of the Soviet Union in the DRA and the construction of 130 projects which will cover all the spheres of national economy will be built during the five-year socio-economic development plan (1986-1991).

The projects built with the assistance of the Soviet Union accounts [for] 75 per cent of total of the industrial production in the state sector. 45 percent of state incomes, come from these projects he added.

In connection with the assistance which is being rendered to the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan in promoting private sector, the chairman of Council of Ministers of the DRA said a credit has been provided by the Soviet Union for establishing fifty industrial mixed projects on the basis of proposal made by the DRA.

Gandhi Decries Supply of AWACS to Pakistan

BK091246 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 9 May 87

[Text] The prime minister has said that the supply of AWACS to Pakistan would mean a serious setback to efforts at normalizing relations between the two countries. In an interview to an American magazine, Mr Gandhi said he is convinced that the sophisticated early warning system will be used against India. He said the introduction of these systems will escalate the arms race in the subcontinent to a qualitatively new level. It will also divert scarce resources of India's development priority, Mr Gandhi emphasized.

The prime minister also said that there is clear evidence of Pakistan going ahead with its nuclear weapons program. He said the United States had the power to restrain Pakistan, but it is not doing so.

U.S. AWACS Crew Criticized

BK071455 Delhi PATRIOT in English 30 Apr 87 p 4

[Editorial: "US To Man Zia AWAC's"]

[Text] That US military personnel man the sophisticated US weapon systems in Pakistan has been known for quite some time to many people in this subcontinent in spite of the vociferous disclaimers from Islamabad. One would perhaps not be wrong if it is inferred that Pakistan Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo wrote the "secret" letter to President Ronald Reagan, asking for the stationing of the US personnel in that country on the plea of fresh threats from Afghanistan (only to be leaked to the Press by mutual consent), because the original misinformation would not hold any longer. Above all, the people of Pakistan itself are openly expressing suspicion that the Zia-Junejo establishment has mortgaged the country's sovereignty and opted to act the part of a surrogate required by the US global military strategy. The ploy of a leaked letter presumably became necessary because of the adverse popular reaction to the visit of a US nuclear warship to Karachi in March last year. On that occasion, the US troops who had disembarked from the world's largest nuclear warship, *"Enterprise"* of the US Navy on a "rest and recreation" sojourn, were attacked in the port city's streets and had to scramble back onto the ships. Now, under a thinly veiled cover-up, the US military personnel will be permanently stationed in Pakistan to man and maintain the sophisticated airborne warning and control system (AWACS) planes in response to the invitation extended by Pakistan's Prime Minister.

The presence of the AWACS in Pakistan, together with US military crew, however, is not a matter that concerns the people of Pakistan alone. It means nothing less than a direct threat to all countries in the region that do not bow to Washington's diktat. The presence of the armed forces of a super power on Pakistan creates a new situation. This military presence in Pakistan territory makes the subcontinent vulnerable to the strategic moves and counter-moves of international power play to the detriment of the peace and stability of the countries of the region. It will not need another exposure of Pakistan's false plea of threat from Afghanistan, and by implication from the Soviet Union, to show that it has been done to generate warlike tensions in the region. From all accounts of the AWACS, it is clear that not only Afghanistan but quite a large part of India bordering Pakistan will be under US surveillance for all the harm that can be caused to this country's security. It is time New Delhi took a serious note of the US moves in this subcontinent through the proxy of Pakistan, and urgently fashioned measures to safeguard India's vital interests.

It is also necessary that this dangerous development is raised in international forums because it disturbs the peace of the region. It is a part of the overt and covert actions US imperialists have mounted to destabilise the unaligned nations of South Asia. It is necessary for India to alert the nonaligned nations to this development in Pakistan, because this poses questions about Pakistan's qualification for membership of the Nonaligned Movement.

Reported Cause of Satellite Crash Denied

BK080318 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 8 May 87

[Text] The government has denied a report that the use of untested strap-on technology led to the crash of the satellite launch vehicle, ASLV [Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle], on the 24th of March. A spokesman of the Ministry of Science and Technology described an earlier PTI report on the cause of the crash as premature. He said expert teams are still carrying out detailed analysis of the data collected during the flight and the result of the analysis is expected soon.

Both Sides in Sri Lanka Urged to Give Up Violence

BK080942 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 8 May 87

[Text] The government has urged both sides to the ethnic issue in Sri Lanka to give up violence and work for a negotiated political settlement. Stating this in the Rajya Sabha today, the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, said a solution to the tragic dispute cannot be found through military means.

The negotiated political settlement, the minister said, should meet the legitimate aspirations of the Tamil minority within the parameters of unity and integrity of Sri Lanka. Mr Natwar Singh was making a statement in response to a call attention motion on the situation in the island country tabled by mr V. Gopalaswamy, Munnetra Kazagham, and nine others.

The minister referred to the reported order of the Sri Lankan Government for closing down the Jaffna hospital which had already been the target of shelling on several occasions. He said this will add further to the suffering of the Tamil people. Mr Natwar Singh said this indicates that the Sri Lankan Government is getting ready to embark on an action which is bound to lead to large-scale civilian deaths and mass destruction.

Mr Natwar Singh expressed the hope that better sense will prevail upon the Sri Lankan Government. The minister reiter-

ated the government's firm conviction that only a political settlement can offer a long-term solution to the ethnic issue. He told members that we must condemn all acts of violence.

Mr Natwar Singh also told the members that the Sri Lankan Government says that the economic blockade is only aimed at the militants and applicable only to fuel supplies. But the fact is that it has affected the availability of foodstuffs and medicines and has disrupted normal life throughout Jaffna. It is difficult to appreciate how the misguided actions by a few as stated by the Sri Lankan Government can justify the imposition of harsh economic and communication blockade and large-scale military action, the minister asked.

Initiating the discussion, Mr Gopalaswamy said that Sri Lankan Government has undertaken an operation knockout for total annihilation of Tamils. Members expressed concerned over Sri Lanka's efforts to internationalize the issue and the involvement of Israel and Pakistan. They demanded firm measures by India, including economic sanctions and total isolation of the island government.

Minister Says Israelis, Pakistanis in Sri Lanka

BK081417 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 8 May 87

[Excerpts] The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, tody asserted in the upper house of parliament that the military solution the Sri Lankan Government contemplates of the ethnic problem in the island will not solve the issue. He said the government is particularly concerned about recent intemperate statements coupled with expressions of determination to pursue a military solution by the Sri Lankan Authorities. Mr Natwar Singh was replying to the call attention motion [in parliament] on the situation in Sri Lanka. [passage omitted]

The minister rejected a demand by several opposition members for military action or to take the issue to international fora. He said such a step will tend to regionalize or internationalize the issue. It will be bogged down with power rivalry. The minister said the reported presence of Israel, Pakistan, and private outfits from the United Kingdom and the United States in Sri Lanka is going to worsen the situation. India, he said, had asked Sri Lanka to remove the blockade of Jaffna and come to the negotiating table. The prime minister sent Mr Dinesh Singh as an emissary to negotiate a solution. Certain assurances were given by Sri Lanka which were never kept. [passage omitted].

'Clues' Emerge on Bridge Blast

BK080635 Delhi THE HINDU in English 28 Apr 87 p 4

[Text] Madras, April 27. Clues have emerged on the alleged involvement of a tiny faction of one of the Tamil militants' breakaway groups in the blasting of the Marudayar bridge off Ariyalur on March 15.

Five activists belonging to an extremist outfit CPI(ML) that called itself as Tamil Nadu Viduthalai Padai (Tamil Nadu Liberation Front) have so far been taken into custofy in connection with the bridge blast that led to the Rockfort tragedy.

The question is whether the faction in league with the front has acted at the behest of the Sri Lankan Government or in support of all the separatist movements championed by the front.

The Police say the wider ramifications of the Rockfort Express tragedy will unfold only when all those responsible for the blasting of the bridge are brought to book.

The recent arrest of 30-year-old Karunakaran, hailing from Vallam village in Tiruchi district, acknowledged to be a close associate of Tamilarasan leading the front, has helped shed more light on those responsible for the tragedy.

Eluding the relentless Police hunt in the last seven years is Tamilarasan, a chemical engineer hailing from Madakali Manickam village in Srimushnam police station limits in South Arcot district.

It is said that Tamilarasan, a close relative of Kaliaperumal of Pennadam (South Arcot district), a well-known Marxist-Leninist leader, who led the Peoples' War Group in the Seventies, fell out with the latter and formed the front two years ago in favour of a violent path in the elimination of class enemies.

A visit to the northern fringe of Tiruchi and parts of South Arcot and Thanjavur showed that the front has some following though it is not visible in the form of posters and slogans on the walls.

The front, it is said, was using two other organisations — Radical Youth League and Radical Students Union — to build up its mass base.

A visit to Vallam village, from where three of the well-known activists of the front were rounded up in connection with the bridge blast, showed that it could be a citadel for extremists.

Tucked away deep inside cashew groves extending to miles and inhabited by about 500 families belonging to one community, Vallam, a sleepy hamlet, has now acquired a notoriety with Police mounting a time vigilance in search of those eluding arrest.

Vallam is not on any bus route. From Guvaham, another hamlet, the nearest point, one has to trudge through four kilometres x of muddy track to reach it.

Sri Lankan Envoy Protests Aid

BK081637 Delhi THE HINDU in English 1 May 87 p 1

[Excerpt] New Delhi, April 30 — Sri Lanka has protested to India against the Tamil Nadu Government's decision to supply Rs. 4 crore worth food, clothes and medicines to the Tamils in the island or here who had suffered from atrocities there.

Mr Bernard Tilakaratne, the Sri Lankan High Commissioner, met the Foreign Secretary, Mr K.P.S. Menon today to convey his Government's concern over Tamil Nadu decision.

According to Mr Tilakaratne, his Government regarded it as unlawful and an infringement of Sri Lanka's sovereignty. The State Government, he noted, had taken this step without the concurrence of Sri Lankan authorities.

The Secretary General of the Tamil Eelam Liberation Front (TELF) Mr M. K. Eelaventhan today met the External Affairs Minister, Mr. N. D. Tiwari for about 20 minutes. He was accompanied by Mr Valampuri John, MP.

Mr Eelaventhan reportedly gave details of the plight of the Tamils in Sri Lanka in the context of the latest military offensive by the government. He requested Mr Tiwari to use India's influence to restrain the Sri Lankan Government in its military adventures. [passage omitted]

Continued Violence in Punjab Prompts Reaction

Government Dismissal Called For

BK110340 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 11 May 87

[Text] Eight Congress-I MPs have urged the center to take immediate action to clear the way for initiating new strategies to tackle the alarming situation in Punjab. In a statement issued in New Delhi, the MPs who are from Punjab demanded dismissal of the Barnala government. They expressed concern over the deteriorating law and order situation in the state. The statement says that the Akali Dal has forfeited all moral authority to continue in government. The Barnala government had failed to utilize the climate created by the all-party convention to bring peace in the state. The statement describes it as most distressing that some of the senior most ministers of the Barnala government are openly mixing with hardcore terrorists and protecting them. The signatories to the statement are Mr H.S. Hanspal, General R.S. Sparrow, Mrs Amarjeet Kaur, Mr Satpal Mittal, Mr Pawankumar Bansal, Mr Sundar Singh, Mrs Sukhbans Kaur and Mr Kamal Chaudhary.

The state unit of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has also demanded dismissal of the Barnala government and promulgation of president's rule in the state. The general secretary of the state unit, Mr (Hith Abhilashi) told newsmen in Hoshiarpur that the Barnala government has failed in its duty toward the people and has lost their confidence. Its ministers are involved in scandals, he alleged.

Buta Singh: Close Watch on Punjab

BK110908 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 11 May 87

[Text] The Lok Sabha was told today that the center is keeping a close watch over the deteriorating law-and-order situation in Punjab and will not run away from discharging its moral and constitutional responsibility to protect the lives and property of the people of the state. The assurance came from the home minister, Mr Buta Singh, when several members, both from the ruling party and the opposition, demanded a statement from the government. Mr Buta Singh said the situation in the state is fast deteriorating and he is in close contact with the chief minister, Mr Barnala. The union home minister told the members that he is yet to get a positive response from Mr Barnala.

An opposition member specifically referred to press reports about the possibility of president's rule in the state and sought to know the position. Mr Buta Singh replied: If it is inevitable, the center will not run away from its responsibility. He said he had made a number of requests with the Punjab chief minister to tighten up the law-and-order situation. The subject was raised by a ruling party member soon after the house assembled for the extended sitting today. Several other ruling and opposition members joined the member in demanding a statement from the home minister.

In the Rajya Sabha, Mr L.K. Advani, Bharatiya Janata Party, expressed deep concern over the law-and-order situation in the state. Raising the issue through a special mention, he said terrorists are running a parallel government in Punjab. His party has been demanding that the state's administration should be handed over to the Army as the Barnala government has failed to protect the lives and property of the people. He said nothing has been done to restore the confidence of the people, despite the fact that a bill for the creation of a security zone has already been passed.

In Punjab, two suspected terrorists were killed and three policemen injured in an exchange of fire at Haripur Basti in Sangrur district early this morning. A police spokesman said in Chandigarh that following a tip-off a police party raided the hideout of the terorists. On being challenged, the terrorists opened fire, injuring three policemen. The police returned the fire, killing two of the terrorists. The third managed to escape.

Son of Prominent Punjab Leader, Bodyguard Killed

BK081649 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 May 87

[Text] In Punjab, Mr Sukhdev Singh, son of veteran Akali leader and vice president of the Akali Dal, Mr Jivansingh Umranangal, was shot dead when some suspected terrorists attacked him in village in Amritsar district this evening. According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh, the bodyguard of Mr Sukhdev Singh, a police head constable was also killed.

418 Arrested in Punjab in April

BK081623 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 May 87

[Text] The Punjab chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, has said that the performance of the state police has considerably improved and can be rated as excellent during the last month. Talking to newsmen in Chandigarh this afternoon, he said a record 418 terrorists and extremists were arrested and a large quantity of foreign made sophisticated arms and ammunition recovered.

10 Killed in Punjab 9 May

BK100908 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 10 May 87

[Text] In Punjab, 10 persons including 3 terrorists were killed in separate incidents in Amritsar District last night. Three terrorists were killed during an encounter between a terrorist gang and a police party near (Hari Ke Pattan). A large quantity of arms and ammunition were recovered from them. The killed are suspected to be members of the Avtar Singh Brahma gang. A sarpanch [village headman] and two of his family members were shot dead by terrorists in village Sidhwan. The same group of terrorists later opened fire in village Bhuttar, killing three persons. Another youth was shot dead by terrorists in Amritsar city.

The Punjab governor, Mr S.S. Ray, has appealed to the people of the state to fight terrorism unitedly. He was speaking at a function in Ludhiana yesterday to celebrate the birth anniversary of the former minister, Mr Joginder Pal Pandey, who was killed by terrorists in January this year. Speaking on the occasion, the All India Congress Committee-I general secretary, Mr Nawal Kumar Sharma, said the killing of innocent people must stop. Leaders of other political parties also paid tribute to Mr Pandey.

The state finance minister, Mr Balwant Singh, has said that the Akali government is firmly in control of the situation in the state and enjoys the majority support in the assembly. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi yesterday, he contested the report that law and order had deteriorated during the last 1 month.

2 Shot in Hoshiarpur 10 May

BK101555 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 May 87

[Text] In Punjab, some unidentified gunmen shot dead two persons near village (Bhanewal) in Hoshiarpur District this afternoon. According to PTI, about 12 suspected terrorists have been arrested by the police in the state. Arms and ammunition were recovered from them.

Intruder From Pakistan Killed

BK110314 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 11 May 87

[Text] One intruder from Pakistan was killed in an encounter with the BSF [Border Security Force] near (Medhipur) picket in Kham Karan area. Some arms and ammunition were recovered from him.

Plan Formed To End Communal Violence in Gujarat

BK090902 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 9 May 87

[Text] The minister of state for home, Mr P. Chidambaram, has said a plan of action has been worked out to check communal disturbances in Ahmedabad, Baroda, Nadiad, and other places in Gujarat. It will soon be announced by the chief minister, Mr Amarsinh Chaudhuri. Mr Chidambaram was addressing newsmen in Ahemadabad this morning after a visit to the violent hit areas in the city and Kheda District yesterday. He had prolonged discussions with the state government and a wide cross section of people in Ahmedabad and other places. Mr Chidambaram said communal disturbances have done much damage to the state and we must stop communalism from spreading. He appealed to the people of the state to cooperate with the government in restoring normalcy so that undivided attention could be paid to the problems of severe drought and development.

In reply to a question, Mr Chidambaram said the state government has ably handled the critical situation in the last several months. He assured all help from the center in meeting the situation. Later, Mr Chidambaram went round the affected areas of Baroda.

Janata Party: Gandhi Acts 'Sell-Off' of Country

BK081645 Delhi THE HINDU in English 1 May 87 p 4

[Text] Bangalore, April 30. A serious charge that the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, "was collecting funds" in every import and export deal and that the elections were fought by the Congress (I) with foreign funds" was made by Mr. M. S. Gurupadaswamy, a senior leader of the Janata Party, at the party's national council meeting here today.

Mr. Gurupadaswamy, who was participating in the discussion on the statement, "State of the nation," alleged that there was a sell-off of the country in every field.

Earlier, introducing the statement for discussion, Prof. Madhu Dandavate said the scenario in the country today was reminiscent of the pre-emergency days but felt that because of the amendment of the Constitution made by the Janata Party when it was in power it would not be possible for the Prime Minister to promulgate emergency except on "our dead bodies." The Fairfax probe, the defence and Bofors gun deals, dominated the discussions, with speaker after speaker lashing out at the Centre and the Prime Minister.

With all that Mr. Gurupadaswamy said, he was not demanding the resignation of Mr. Gandhi. Characterising the Governement as "Government of corruption by corruption," he said there were more scandals coming and those that had come out had not been unfolded in all their ramification. He said in the natural course of events Mr. Gandhi, whom he described as "immature and raw without commitment to policies and even to the Government", would make his exit.

PM's "cover-up bid: Mr. Gurupadaswamy also alleged that Mr. Rajiv Gandhi was trying to cover up the Fairfax episode and the inquiry commission had been given limited terms and full truth would not come out. Those who had committed violations of foreign exchange and had assets in foreign countries would not be brought out in the inquiry.

In the defence deal in which an agent was to have received Rs. 30 crores the Government had not given names as to who had taken the commission. Even in the investigation sought by India into the Bofors gun deal the nature was limited to find out if there

were middlemen. "Why should not the Government of India ask the Swedish Radio and the Swedish bank to find out the truth?"

He told the meeting that he was interviewed by the representative of Swedish Radio and a Swedish newspaper. They said the Swedish Radio had documents and there was evidence to show that prominent Congress leaders and some important defence personnel involved in the negotiations had taken money. But the sources which had supplied the documents had put a condition that it should not be published without their clearance. "I presume that there were kickbacks without middlemen," he observed

Mr. Gurupadaswamy also averred that there was no need for any apprehension that something unpleasant was happening to the Janata Party in Karnataka (indirectly referring to the reported dissatisfaction in a section of the party after the recent Cabinet expansion). There was no crisis of any sort. However, he was not denying that there were some problems for the party which were minor ones and which could be solved. Karnataka would remain the main bastion of the party for many years to come, he added.

Mr. Samarendra Kundu, former Union Minister, criticised the Prime Minister for his failure to visit Orissa and "wipe the tears of the famine stricken people."

Prof. Jaswant Singh, general secretary of the Delhi Pradesh Janata Party, said he had not met any one in Punjab who believed in the concept of Khalistan. He alleged that in the name of terrorists innocent people were being killed and a slanderous and vilification campaign had been let loose against patriotic people of the country.

Mr. Kalivaradan of Tamil Nadu wanted steps to be taken to wipe the tears of the Tamils in Sri Lanka.

Mr. Ramachandra Rao of Andhra Pradesh wanted to know whether the party was trying to project itself as an alternative to the Congress (I). It was not enough if it was a viable alternative, but it should be a credible alternative.

Sardar Kripal Singh, president of the Punjab unit of the party, said concrete steps should be taken to win the confidence of the Sikhs.

Mr. Chandrasekharan, Kerala Minister, traced the political developments in Kerala and factors which led to LDF [Left Democratic Front] victory. The results of Kerala elections were good for the country and were a pointer of the results of the future elections to Assemblies in other States he said.

'Granite Looters' in League With Government

BK101410 Hong Kong AFP in English 1347 GMT 10 May 87

[Text] New Delhi, May 10 (AFP) — Exporters have illegally extracted granite worth nearly 28 billion U.S. dollars from quarries in southern India over the past decade, the *Press Trust of India* (PTI) reported Sunday.

"Mountains" of Karnataka State's famous black and grey granite have turned into "mounds" because of continued illegal mining, the news agency said, quoting a local source, Vatal Nagaraj, who it described as an "activist."

The report said the "granite looters" were in league with politicians and senior government Geology Department officials.

It put the loss in sales tax to the state at 2i billion rupees (1.6 billion dollars).

There are more than 600 granite quarries in Karnataka.

Scientists Make Breakthrough in Superconductors

BK101318 Hong Kong AFP in English 1309 GMT 10 May 87

[Text] New Delhi, may 10 (AFP) — Indian scientists have developed superconductors with zero electrical resistance that could revolutionise domestic electronics and computer industries, the *Press Trust of India* (PTI) reported Sunday.

Scientists at the Indian Institute of Technology have developed about 50 new alloys based on rare earth elements abundantly found in India which show zero resistance to electricity, PTI said.

India thus joins an exclusive club of countries such as the United States, Japan and China, which have developed superconductors, the news agency said.

The discovery can lead to incredible savings in energy and be the precursor of trains that run hundreds of kilometres (miles) per hour on a cushion of magnetism, electric cars, miniature computers and reactors operating on the principle of nuclear fusion rather than fission, it said.

Cables to reduce electricity losses in transmission and huge magnets for industrial application are other possibilies thrown up by the breakthrough in superconductivity research.

Superconductivity involves a transition that occurs in many metals when they are cooled to temperatures within several degrees of absolute zero — equivalent to minus 273 degrees Celsius and representing total absence of heat.

As metay limit, they lose resistance to electricity and become superconductors. This enables them to carry electrical currents without the loss of any energy and, in some cases, to generate powerful magnetic fields.

Research in superconductivity has been growing, and U.S., Japanese and Chinese scientists have developed a new class of materials exhibiting superconductivity at 75 degrees Kelvin. Kelvin is a unit of the coldest temperature conceivable.

The alloys developed by Indian scientists show superconductivity at 95 degrees Kelvin (minus 178 degrees Centigrade), PTI said.

Pakistan Paper Report of Trawler Attack Denied

BK081631 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 May 87

[Text] India has denied the report that a helicopter gunship attacked a Pakistani trawler. The report in a Pakistani newspaper had said that 1 person was killed and 3 injured in the alleged attack when the trawler was in Pakistani waters. An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that the Indian Navy coastguard patrol had located the vessel in the Indian waters on the 27th of last month. It attempted to evade capture by resorting to violent means. One fishermen was found dead due to an accidental fall. None of the fishermen had received bullet injuries as alleged in the report, the spokesman added.

New Delhi Imam Warns Muslims May Lose 'Patience'

NC090652 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 9 May 87

[Text] This week, like past weeks, Friday prayers in India were attended by a large number of Indian Muslims in various cities, but especially in New Delhi and in Srinagar, the center of Jammu and Kashmir state.

The Central News Unit reports that this week's Friday sermon was delivered by the New Delhi Friday Imam Seyyed 'Abdollah Bokhari, who listed the problems faced by the Muslims in India and referred to the recent demonstrations by the Indian Muslims against the government. He said: If India's government officials do not pay attention and try to solve the problems faced by the Muslims in this country, if they continue to support fanatic Hindus in their attacks against the Muslims, the Muslims will lose their patience and the officials will be responsible for any incident that may occur.

Agreement Reached To Increase Trade With Hungary

BK080400 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 8 May 87

[Text] India and Hungary have agreed to increase bilateral trade from $70 million to $100 million by the year-end. A member of the Politburo of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party, Mr Csaba Hamori, now on a visit to India, said this at a news conference in New Delhi. Mr Hamori met the external affairs minister, Mr Tiwari, and several union ministers yesterday and discussed ways and means to increase technical and commercial cooperation between the two countries.

Bhutto, Wali Khan Voice Opposition to AWACS

BK081413 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 8 May 87

[Text] The Pakistan People's Party leader, Miss Benazir Bhutto, has criticized Islamabad acquisition of AWACS planes. In a statement issued in Islamabad today, Miss Bhutto said that the Pakistan Government's move to acquire AWACS could affect its independent status and push the country into the clutches of superpower conflict.

Another top opposition leader, Mr Khan Abdul Wali Khan has warned that Pakistan was heading toward a precipice. The statement of Miss Bhutto and Mr Wali Khan came as the Soviet Union warned Pakistan that any unfriendly action by it against its neighbors will not go unpunished.

U.S. AWACS Crew 'Infringement' on Sovereignty

BK091626 Karachi DAWN in English 1 May 87 p 19

[Editorial: "Looking the AWACS Gift Horse in the Mouth"]

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman has confirmed what the *New York Times* had earlier reported that Pakistan has expressed a wish to acquire AWACS aircraft on lease from the United States. This follows Prime Minister Junejo's letter to President Reagan along these lines despatched through Senator Gordon Humphrey, a leading congressional hawk on Afghanistan, who was in Pakistan a few days ago. According to some other reports, the U.S. has agreed "in principle" to the Pakistani request. Pakistan's case for this unique arrangement rests on the ground that its need for an early warning system to counter Afghan air violations is too pressing to be left lying for the two or three years that it will take for an outright purchase of the AWACS. Superficially then, the acquisition of the AWACS on lease might look like the ideal solution to an urgent security need. But there is the glimmer of a catch in it when the question of who will be flying these sophisticated planes is taken into account. The Foreign Office spokesman has predictably adopted an ambivalent position, saying that it could not be presummed that these would necessarily require a foreign crew for their operation. But this matter is too serious to be left at that. Pakistan must unequivocally reject, much less propose, any arrangement whereby AWACS that it receives on loan or lease are manned by foreign personnel. That would be an infringement of its sovereignty and an aspersion on its non-aligned status. It would almost amount to giving the U.S. a base on our territory and a base, given the capacity of the AWACS, more effective than the one at Badaber, which provoked Soviet ire in the sixties. Furthermore, we will not have complete control over the intelligence gathering capability of these planes and no way of telling whether they are being used for our purposes alone or their American fliers are freelancing on the side and peeping at other things on Soviet, Chinese or Indian territory.

Pakistan enjoys a close defence relationship with the United States. But such a move (if this deal goes through, Pakistan will only be the second country in the world after Saudi Arabia to receive AWACS) will identify it still more closely with American security interests. It will also almost surely inflame tensions in the region and, to that extent, add another hurdle in the way of a political settlement of the Afghan conflict. True, Pakistan territory is being subjected to wanton aggression from Afghanistan, and it does need an early warning system to meet this threat. But perhaps more than anything else, it needs a peaceful solution of the Afghan war. It is this war on our doorstep and our involvement in it in one form or another which is fuelling a cycle of intrusion, retaliation and counter-retaliation. Military measures alone seldom can stave off the consequences of flawed politics. It is, therefore, to the politics of the conflict next door that Pakistan must look in order to arrest the deteriorating security situation on the north-west border. But if regardless of this wider diplomatic setting, AWACS have to be brought in to protect our air space, on no account must a foreign crew be permitted to fly them. The adverse consequences of such a step will outweigh any dubious advantages that may flow from it. So, if Prime Minister Junejo's letter to President Reagan has given rise to the impression that Pakistan might be willing to countenance this possibility, it must swiftly be removed. In trying to help the Afghan dissidents win their war of resistance, Pakistan should not mortgage its own freedom and independence.

UN Mission Responds To Afghan Charge on Refugees

BK091545 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 9 May 87

[Text] Pakistan has once again proposed that the United Nations and the UN High Commissioner for Afghan Refugees, who has daily contact with Afghan refugees in 325 tented villages, should ascertain from the Afghan refugees whether they want to return home under the present situation.

The Pakistani mission at the United Nations released a letter on Wednesday [6 May] which said that this survey will provide firsthand knowledge to the world body about the feelings of the Afghan refugees on the question of their return home under the present situation and on the foreign military occupation of their country. The letter of the acting permanent representative of Pakistan was in response to the Afghan permanent representative's letter which claimed that Pakistan was obstructing the return of Afghan refugees to their homes. The Pakistani representative said that the Kabul regime's representative has once again tried to cover up the miseries faced by the Afghan people due to the continued military occupation of their country. The Kabul regime thinks that it can succeed in diverting world attention from the loss of life and destruction caused by the occupation forces in Afghanistan by leveling incorrect charges against Pakistan. He said that Pakistan has never said anything on the [word indistinct] of the Afghan refugees nor does it intend to do so. Pakistan has been assisting the Afghan refugees for the last 7 years solely on humanitarian grounds.

French Foreign Minister Leaves for Home

BK081533 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 8 May 87

[Text] French foreign minister Jean-Bernard Raimond left Karachi for home this morning after a 3-day visit to Pakistan. He was

seen off at the airport by representatives of the Foreign Ministry and French diplomats.

Indian Claims of Nuclear Threat 'Shoddy'

BK091704 Karachi DAWN in English 3 May 87 p 9

[Editorial: "India's Nuclear Politics"]

[Text] The statement made by the Indian Defence Minister in Lok Sabha on Monday about his country's intention to review its nuclear options hardly makes much difference to the facts of reality as they are widely known. If India decides to go public on its nuclear accomplishment — in terms of bombs it has made or can make in a short time — that would hardly qualify to be treated as an exciting new development; it would at best be a formal admission of a more or less known fact. When it exploded its nuclear device at Pokhran in the Rajasthan desert in 1974, it staked its claim to the membership of the exclusive nuclear club by demonstrating its capability of making the bombs, despite its well-orchestrated diplomatic denials. This was a bomb with plutonium as its base. In 1985, India became the first Third World country, and the seventh in the world, to have acquired the capability to build and run a fast-breeder reactor with domestic technology and fuel. A fast-breeder reactor with domestic technology and fuel. A fast-breeder reactor is suitable for uranium enrichment and can produce U-233, a weapons-grade material that can be used for building atomic bombs. Thus, India demonstrated its double capability to make bombs using either plutonium or enriched uranium. India's nuclear status was recently recognised in the U.S. Congress during the markup of the foreign assistance Bill, including 4.02 billion dollar aid package for Pakistan. The House of Representatives Committee adopted a legislation (later accepted by the Senate committee, too) which squarely put the onus on India for ensuring nuclear non-proliferation in the region. The "sense-of-the-house" resolution (which is not binding) requires the U.S. Government to involve India in the nuclear non-proliferation process, while it acts "to prevent Pakistan from making the bomb." The U.S. Congress is thus not only concerned about "Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme;" it is equally worried about India's refusal to accept international safeguards and on-site inspection of its nuclear facilities.

There is, however, a twist in the statement made in the Lok Sabha. The Indian Defence Minister has linked the intention to review his country's nuclear options to "the emerging nuclear threat from Pakistan". This is an extraordinary example of extracting a pretext out of a threat perception which is as self-serving as it is shoddy. The contrivance involved in this argument is patent in view of New Delhi's lack of response to the many offers made by Pakistan to dispel suspicions and distrust on this score. These include proposals that (a) India and Pakistan jointly sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty; (b) jointly declare South Asia a nuclear-free zone; (c) agree to mutual inspection of each other's nuclear facilities; (d) simultaneously accept complete IAEA safeguards for all nuclear installations; and (e) the States of South Asia make a binding declaration to renounce acquisition or manufacture of weapons. Add to this President Ziaul Haq's solemn declaration of March 21 — "Pakistan has discarded the nuclear option for non-peaceful purposes deliberately, unilaterally and with a great sense of responsibility" — and the picture is complete. The most recent example of India's consistent refusal to respond positively to offers and initiatives to dispel any misgivings about each other's nuclear intention is provided by its summary rejection of Pakistan's latest proposal for agreeing to impartial inspection of the two countries' nuclear programmes and installations. No cogent reason has been given for this negative response, aside from labelling Pakistan's offer as a 'propaganda ploy' aimed at diverting world attention from its 'offensive' nuclear programme. The plain logic that if Pakistan is hiding a skeleton in its nuclear cupboard, the best way to expose it is to put it to mutual or neutral scrutiny has no appeal for New Delhi. This aversion to any form of inspection has its own story to tell.

However, if India has other reasons to want to enhance its nuclear capability — say, its drive to rival China in the nuclear and other fields or its ambition to be recognised as a mini-superpower or the dominant power in the region — it should have the courage to say so openly, without dragging Pakistan into this power game to justify its move. If the decision makers in New Delhi think that achieving the grandeur of belonging to the big league is a higher purpose than improving the lot of their masses, they may well be deceiving themselves. About 40 per cent of India's population lives below the subsistence level. Neither India nor Pakistan can afford to divert its meagre resources from the clamant demands of development to the industry of death. But India has a greater responsibility to the one billion poor people that inhabit the subcontinent for the simple reason that it opened the Pandora's box with that infamous blast in 1974.

Drug Traffickers Clash, Create Tension in Karachi

BK101536 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 May 87

[Text] The district magistrate of Karachi South issued a press note saying that a person was killed in a clash between two groups of drug traffickers in Railway Colony yesterday. The incident has created tension in the area. The dead body was taken to the civil hospital for post mortem where about 200 persons gathered and shoutedslogans. But timely action by the local officials defused the tension. At about midnight, certain troublemakers reached Railway Colony and set fire to huts and wooden goods lying on the street. The police and the fire brigade reached the spot and put out the fire. Meanwhile, the press note adds that some troublemakers started firing and throwing stones, forcing the police to fire tear gas to control the situation.

SRI LANKA

President Warns of JVP's 'Bloody Revolution'

BK100845 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0813 GMT 10 May 87

[Text] Colombo, May 10 (LANKA PUWATH) — Sri Lankan President J.R. Jayewardene said yesterday that he intended summoning a political parties conference soon to discuss the current situation in the north and east and the campaign they should launch against terrorists' attempts to set up a fascist dictatorship. The president, addressing the Executive Committee of the ruling United National Party's youth league at the UNP headquarters in Pitakotte, Colombo said the time has come where we have to think carefully because of certain happenings. We know that in 1971 the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) attempted to topple Mrs Bandaranaike's government.

They tried to do so by attacking police stations, killing police officers, taking Mrs Bandaranaike into their custody and killing myself and Mr Dudley Senanayake.[sentence as received] If Mrs Bandaranaike, a prime minister of the country, was destroyed or arrested her government would have fallen. But she escaped because of the secretary of our youth league at Gonahena in my electorate. His family were supporters of the UNP.

Up to date we have not been informed that there was an intention to kill us. If there was an attempt to kill Mrs Bandaranaike she was promptly informed to be careful. Whatever it was, the JVP captured about 40 police stations and it took several months for them to be taken back by the government.

Then the leaders of the JVP were arrested. They were charged and sntenced to jail. When I came to power I considered whether we are to keep them in jail for life. Some expressed the view that their being kept in jail was wrong. Some criticised the manner in which they had been tried. Opinion against Rohana Wijeweera and others being in jail increased. That was the way of the world. Such opinion was expressed when Nehru, Mahatma Gandhi of India and Mandela of South Africa were in jail. Before that opinion heightened I pardoned the JVPers and released them. I though that they would accept democracy.

Till 1983 they participated in the democratic process — in local elections, by-elections, and the presidential election and the referendum in 1972. They were defeated in every one of them and there [word indistinct] (?police) reported that the JVPers were dent on killing and violence.

On May Day in [date indistinct] the JVP demonstration and rally became a military parade. The police informed that if these ranks [word indistinct] it would lead to a dangerous situation and there could be a bloody insurrection like in 1971. The 1983 plots were helped by them. Therefore the party was proscribed.

Now the government has credible information that again the JVP was preparing for an insurrection early. The police have informed us that the JVP is responsible for a spate of violence and crime like in 1971. They have robbed banks, stolen vehicles and killed people, like murder of a university student. The police have recovered maps of targets which the JVP wanted to attack. Several arrests and discoveries of bombs, weapons, have led the police to inform the government that the JVP was responsible for the present unrest and that it is these people who are creating all the trouble in the universities. If we allowed the May Day rallies they had planned to create disturbance. [sentence as received]

They had planned to stone Muslim and Tamil shops. The police said it would be difficult for them to protect them and requested us not to allow any demonstrations.

After much consideration and discussion it was decided not to hold May Day rallies. But the Mawbima [word indistinct] Viyaparaya organised a May Day rally at Narahenpita and there was trouble there. Dr Colvin R. De Silva and others did not try to create trouble.

According to information in the country the Mawbima Surekeeme Sanvidanaya has been infiltrated by members of the JVP.

He said there are some bhikkus [Buddhist monks] in the universities who were not real bhikkus but falsely wearing robes. We can see the entire thing that is happening like a picture. What do we do? It is not sufficient for us to talk. We must act. Otherwise there could be a revolution before we even think of it.

This type of bloodshed and revolutions has occurred in the last 200 years in various countries — France, Russia, China, Cuba etc.

The president said the target of such revolutionaries is always the leader of the government and his ministers. If they destroy them the government would fall. If they destroy MP's the president can appoint them and the government would not fall (laughter). But one does not know who will replace the leadership. If it is the JVP it will be Rohana Wijeweera. One still does not know who would have replaced Mrs Bandaranaike if the insurrection succeeded in 1971, because they had intended to kill Dudley Senanayake and [word indistinct].

Therefore as a party, while working to protect democracy and creating public opinion to win the next election which will be held at the correct time unless the people decide otherwise, we should take steps to face the challenge of this bloody revolution.

He said that every MP would be a target of the revolution. He would therefore be summoning all MP's to discuss means of their having hit (?squads) to counter the JVP's moves. As much as the JVP is working to defeat us we must work to defeat them (applause).

There can be no half way in this dangerous situation where they are seeking to set up a fascist dictatorship. If we do not prepare ourselves to destroy this campaign of violence it would be the end of democracy.

The president said they should not try to take personal revenge but fine out the real leaders and report them to the police.

He intended summoning a political parties conference soon and discussing with them the current situation in the north and east and the campaign they should launch against terrorists attempts to set up a fascist dictatorship.

Meanwhile he wished that they (?take this) message to their houses and villages in the name of democracy and save it from extinction.

Security Tightened Due to JVP

BK101612 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 May 87

[Text] In Sri Lanka, security has been tightened following a new threat from a banned left-wing group seeking to overthrow the government. Addressing a political meeting in Colombo today, the Sri Lankan president, Mr Jayewardene, said he would call an all-party meeting to brief opposition members of parliament about the threat from the banned Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna [JVP] group. Mr Jayewardene has warned that his government will not allow the JVP to capture power by violence. He said he has credible information that the JVP is plotting a new campaign and giving military training to hundreds of its members in jungle hideouts. This is the second warning given by President Jayewardene against the JVP in 4 days. Earlier, he told a parliamentary group that Colombo is facing another insurrection similar to that of 1971.

Meanwhile, authorities have announced the closure of Peradeniya University near Kanday following reports of a possible attack by JVP on the police stations in that area. Students were ordered to vacate their hostels as security arrangements were stepped up.

A PTI report from Colombo says intensive strafing by helicopters and shelling by security forces continued in the Jaffna peninsula. People in large numbers are reported to be leaving Jaffna Town.

7 JVP Members Arrested

BK081152 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 8 May 87

[Text] The police have arrested seven people for alleged links with the group called Janata Vimukthi Peramuna [JVP]. Police told LANKA PUWATH that they have taken into custody three young men and four young women. One suspect who was arrested at Kalania had been distributing JVP literature at the time of arrest. The others were arrested at (Kovala) in the suburban Colombo for allegedly collecting funds for the JVP and for having with them subversive literature.

Police Make Arrests in Connection With Car Bomb

BK101121 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1103 GMT 10 May 87

[Text] Colombo, May 10 (LANKA PUWATH) — A number of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) terrorists have been arrested and taken into custody by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) for allegedly being directly involved in the last April 21, terrorist car bomb explosion which killed at least 117 persons and injured over 260 persons, police told LANKA PUWATH today.

Police also said significant progress had been made in the investigation into the evening peak hour massacre.

The EROS [Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students] connection was now being pursued. Most of the arrests of LTTE terrorists had been made outside Colombo, police said.

Detectives investigating the bombing today appealed to 20 to 25 customers at the Dhurga Cool Spot, a soft drink cafe situated about 20 yards away from the spot where the explosion took place. The Dhurga Cool Spot had seven employees. Two of them had been killed by the car bomb, while the five others were injured.

However, the 20 to 25 customers who were present at the time of the explosion have (?not been traced). They were not identified among the dead, neither were they among the 260 injured interviewed by detectives.

Police said these persons were eyewitnesses who would be in possession of vital evidence. They were requested to call immediately at the CID headquarters on the 4th floor of the New Secretariat Building, Front.

The inspector general of police has offered rewards of over one million rupees for information that would lead to the arrest of the persons who used and travelled in Ford Escort car No. 8 Sri 7125, believed to be the vehicle in which the bomb was planted.

The police has also sought public assistance for information that would lead to the arrest of Thurairatnam Manoharan (21) until recently student of a technical training institute in Colombo and Sithamparampillai Vartharasa alias IPT Waradan (33) in connection with the April 21 Massacre.

Security Minister Denies Mossad Presence

BK110923 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0800 GMT 11 May 87

[Text] Colombo, May 11 (LANKA PUWATH) — Certain parties among us which claim to accept the country's unitary state are trying to exonerate the murderous LTTE-EROS [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam - Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students] terrorists from any blame in the Pettah bomb blast and the mass murder of bus travellers at Kituluthuwa, by accusing the Mossad, the government and the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna] of these atrocities, Sri Lankan National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali said last Saturday.

The minister was addressing a large crowd on the final day of the 138th Mahapola held at the Rambodagalle Maha Vidayalaya in the Dodangaslanda electorate, North Western Province.

Expressing contempt and disgust at these "most irresponsible statements made by certain opposition parties, [no closing quota-

tion mark as received] he said that there was no Mossad in Sri Lanka and the government would not resort to such brutality as an excuse to postpone elections due only in 1989.

Such irresponsible utterances by those claiming to support the country's unitary state only provide ammunition to the terrorists' propaganda war against the government which was fighting the terrorists to preserve the country's sovereignty and unity.

Mr Athulathmudali disclosed that the government has very good evidence to prove that EROS and the LTTE were responsible for the carnage in the Pettah and Kituluthuwa.

Those accusing Mossad or the government for petty political advantage overlook the nation's enemy whose inhumanity was now evident to the world.

"We proved with evidence that the massacre at Kityuluthawa was by the LTTE led by one Pulendran. The LTTE took a cue from the irresponsible utterances of certain interested parties and shifted the blame to the JVP.

The JVP was not responsible for that crime although it had committed many other crimes", the minister said.

Commenting on his recent tv interview over British ITN through a satellite link, Mr Athulathmudali said: "The BBC correspondent an independent participant at the interview and one who knows what is happening here maintained that the Pettah bomb blast was the work of the terrorists and was of the view that the LTTE would not agree to talk peace in the near future, and that the victories gained by Sri Lanka's Security forces would be consolidated until they gained total victory.

"Such being the situation all sections of the public who believe in a unitary state should sink their differences and rally round the government". He said.

Referring to various foreign invasions in Sri Lanka's history Mr. Athulathmudali pointed out that whenever there were divisions among the Sri Lankans foreign invaders had found it easy to conquer the island. It was essential to learn the lessons of history and be determined not to be divided [word indistinct] the security of the nation. A weak defence capability had tempted foreign invaders to conquer this country in the past.

Referring to the high defence expenditure, the minister said that a defence capability was vital if the nation was to maintain its sovereignty and protect its development successes. "There cannot be any development without a proper defence" he said.

Tamil Leaders 'Pleased' With Tamil Nadu Aid

BK080625 Delhi THE HINDU in English 28 Apr 87 p 4

[Text] Madras, April 27, The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation [of Students] (EROS) today welcomed the Tamil Nadu Government's announcement to sanction Rs. 4 crores for providing food, clothes and medicine to the Sri Lankan Tamils affected by the economic blockade imposed by Colombo.

The LTTE said: "We are extremely pleased that the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has sanctioned Rs. 4 crores for the rehabilitation of our people, who are subjected to State terrorism and genocide. Such an assistance at this critical stage is a great victory to the Tamil Eelam liberation struggle. The LTTE wishes to express its sincere gratitude on behalf of the people of Tamil Eelam to the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and the Legislative Assembly (over the gesture)".

The LTTE said the decision of the Tamil Nadu Government to "support and promote our freedom movement is a turning-point in the history of our struggle."

The EROS' leader, Mr V. Balakumar, also thanked the Tamil Nadu Government for its timely help. He said that the aerial bombardment of the Jaffna peninsula had injured thousands of Tamils. The General Hospitals at Jaffna, Tellippalai and Manthihai were overcrowded with injured people. There was a scarcity of surgical instruments and medicine in these hospitals, which themselves were subjected to aerial bombardment. The economic blockade of the Jaffna peninsula had also affected the people and the farmers were not able to produce food because of the fuel embargo.

In the East, about 40 Tamil villages had been destroyed by the Sri Lankan army and their inhabitants had become refugees. The Sri Lankan Government had also cut off the rations for these refugees. Starvation was stalking the Eastern province, where there were no facilities for medical treatment, distribution of food etc. In this situation, the Tamil Nadu Government's decision to provide humanitarian assistance to the Sri Lankan Tamils would be greatly welcome, Mr Balakumar said.

Ships Requested From Tamil Nadu

BK110637 (Clandestine) Voice of Tamil Eelam in Tamil 1330 GMT 9 May 87

[Text] In a letter, the Jaffna Chamber of Commerce has informed the Tamil Nadu chief minister that 100,000 people are not able to live in peace and are instead living like refugees in Jaffna, which is the important center of Tamil Eelam. The Chamber of Commerce has appealed to him to send ships to enable them to seek asylum. It is understood that the copies of this appeal have been sent to the representatives of all foreign governments. The letter also says that the continuing attacks are affecting many people, including patients, women, and children.

53 Refugees Return; Tamils Hamper Food Supply

BK101136 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 10 May 87

[Text] Fifty-three refugees returned from South India on Friday by vallam [boat]. They comprised 14 men, 19 women, and 20 children, according to the Media Center press release issued yesterday. It also said that when ships carrying foodstuffs to Jaffna touched at the Kankesanthurai Harbor to unload, terrorists fired mortars at harbor, thereby terrifying workers. If this continued there might be food scarcities in Jaffna. Petrol and diesel provided for Ceylon Transport buses are being drained

away by terrorists, thereby hampering public transport and causing inconvenience to the public.

Fishermen Beached to Prevent Arms to Terrorists

BK101144 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 10 May 87

[Text] Sri Lanka Government spent over 150 million rupees a month to keep 200,000 northern fishermen on land because they cannot venture out into their traditional fishing grounds in the Palk Strait, a top government source said. Sri Lanka Government sources do not want these fishermen to fall prey to arms carriers for terrorists in Sri Lanka. He said that with security in top gear in the northern territory, there is desperate demand for arms for terrorists fighting for a separate Tamil state in Sri Lanka. Their only source of arms is Tamil Nadu businessmen sympathetic to the casue of separatism in Sri Lanka, he said.

'No-Fire Zone' Near Jaffna Hospital Proposed

BK090943 Hong Kong AFP in English 0929 GMT 9 May 87

[Text] Colombo, May 9 (AFP) — Sri Lankan officials have proposed creating a no-fire zone around a hospital in the Tamil-dominated Jaffna Peninsula instead of closing the facility as previously threatened, Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali said Saturday.

Tamil separatists fighting government troops in the area of the Jaffna hospital were given one week to reply to the proposal on Friday but had yet to respond, well-informed sources said.

Under the proposal, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and other separatist groups would have to agree not to fire on the nearby Jaffna Fort army camp, the sources said.

Government troops would in exchange refrain from shelling rebel positions nearby the hospital, the sources added.

The government had threatened to temporarily close the hospital and transfer patients and staff to other facilities after it was hit by shells during government-troop clashes in April. Each side blamed the other for hitting the hospital.

The decision to continue efforts to have the hospital area made a no-fire zone was taken at a meeting Friday between Mr Athulathmudali, government officials and prominent community leaders including the vice-chancellor of the Jaffna University, doctors from the hospital and a representative of the Government Medical Officers Association, the sources said.

Community representatives from Jaffna who participated in the conference would now have to convince the LTTE to agree to the no-fire zone in exchange for the government's keeping the hospital open, the sources added.

Mr Athulathmudali said that LTTE had rejected an earlier proposal to create a no-fire zone around the hospital.

The security chief denied that a shelling of the hospital in April that badly damaged two wards and killed nine people including patients was caused by government shells.

"That certainly was not the work of the soldiers and there is enough evidence to prove it," he said.

Following the incident the government decided late last month to close the hospital temporarily and distribute its facilities among other northern hospitals.

The Jaffna hospital, with around 1,000 beds, is a major medical institution with several specialised sections including an intensive care unit, hospital officials said.

Tamil separatists have often sought treatement for wounded colleagues at the hospital, sometimes after threatening medical and hospital staff, official sources said.

Colombo University Teachers To Boycott Classes

BK081154 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 8 May 87

[Text] The teachers of the faculties of science, law, and arts of the University of Colombo have resolved not to deliver lectures till they receive an assurance from the students that they would not be exposed to any danger or physical harm. They have also resolved that the members of the three faculties who are student counsellors, or hold any post involving students association, would resign from these positions immediately. The teachers have also requested the vice chancellor of the Colombo University to prevent unauthorized persons from entering the university premises. These resolutions come in the wake of last Tuesday's abduction of five university (word indistinct] and a marshal who were held captives by undergraduates for nearly 5 and 1/2 hours. The six hostages were released only after university authorities negotiated with the students and assured them that there would be no reprisal. The students took these university teachers as hostages demanding the release of 12 undergraduates who had been apprehended by the police at Kelaniya in Colombo following demonstrations against May Day incidents.

Jayewardene Says Bandaranaike Plan To Fail

BK081547 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 28 Apr 87 p 1

[Text] In a major speech before a crowd of about 15,000 people at Karandeniya on Sunday evening, President Jayewardene said the nation must strive towards the single goal of achieving complete victory for the forces of democracy.

The President who was making his second public speech since the Pettah bomb — he spoke at Uragasmanhandiya on Sunday morning — also said that Mrs Bandaranaike's "direct action plan" of toppling the government will not succeed.

He declared:

We are facing today one of the most dangerous national crises in our long history. Experience, patience, foresight, determination and many other qualities are required of all the nation's leaders to face this situation and overcome it successfully.

In times of war, it was said by the Romans, the laws are silent". It is so with many of the freedoms and rules of democracy too. This needs acquiescence by the opposition parties to forego willingly some of their democratic rights and privileges.

When the government of 1971 was faced with a bloody insurrection, as leader of the opposition I pledged my full support to the government, and all opposition parties, especially the United National Party [UNP], worked with the government.

We could have behaved as the Sri Lanka Freedom Party is now behaving and made it difficult for the government. We did not.

What is the purpose of bhikkhus sitting on roads, marching in the streets, and members of parliament being carried out of parliament? Is it to show that the government cannot defeat the terrorists militarily or succeed politically? Is it against India or world opinion?

Do they wish to embarrass the government and help the terrorists and the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna] insurgents, their old opponents who tried to kidnap Mrs Bandaranaike. She was saved by a UNP'er who disclosed the plot to Governor-General Gopallawa.

Come! come! Mrs Bandaranaike, do not hide behind others, but proclaim to the world your "direct action plan" to topple this government. You will not succeed, Chuck it, instead!

I have been in the freedom struggle and the Buddhist renaissance movement since 1936 and 1938, and I will not betray what has been won with so much difficulty over a hundred years of struggle.

When the forces of freedom, unity, democracy and peace triumph, our opponents will also seek to join the bandwagon. We will forgive them and take them, but we will not forget you.

I call upon all members and supporters of the government and the United National Party to remember who these disrupters are, for they seek only their personal advantage and not the welfare of the Sinhalese. For in any widespread riot the sufferers are the majority, the Sinhalese, as happened in 1983.

The government has repeatedly said it will take all steps to destroy terrorists and terrorism. There are ups and downs, peace and war in this struggle, but one goal — complete victory for the democratic forces.

Let us therefore strive together in the task of achieving victory.

Earlier in the day, the President addressed a seminar of 6,000 delegates at Uragasmanhandiya.

In the afternoon, the President drove to Karandeniya where he opened the new building for the Karandeniya Post Office and a new science laboratory for the Karandeniya Madya Maha Vidyalaya.

Large crowds lined the roads to see the President as he was received by Galle District Minister Rupa Karunatilleke and the MP for the area, Mrs Daya Sepali Senadheera.

He was taken in a colourful procession to the venue of the opening ceremonies and the public meeting.

Mr Karunatilleke and Mrs Senadheera also spoke and UNP chairman, Harsha Abeywardene and several MPs of the Galle district participated in the ceremonies.

Briefed on Indian Views

BK101118 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 10 May 87

[Text] Sri Lanka's high commissioner in New Delhi briefed President Jayewardene and national security minister, Lalith Athulathmudali, yesterday on his perceptions of the trends in Indian Government and Tamil Nadu thinking relating to the recent developments in the ethnic crisis in Sri Lanka. Mr Tilakaratna arrived in Colombo in response to a special summons from President Jayewardene on Thursday. He held discussions with Indian ministers of state and other officials over the past 10 days and had lodged a strong Sri Lankan protest with the Indian Government on the recent Tamil Nadu decision to send aid to the terrorists in Jaffna. Mr Tilakaratna will have more discussions with President Jayewardene and Mr Athulathmudali before he returns to Delhi next Wednesday. Mr Tilakaratna declined to comment on the nature of his briefings yesterday.

Musavi on Fall of Dollar, Kuwait's Policies

LD102141 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 10 May 87

[Text] After the cabinet session on Sunday, Prime Minister Musavi commented on the policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran toward the fall in the value of the dollar which will, ultimately, be damaging to oil exporting countries. He said: At today's session, we had a lengthy discussion about ways to confront this problem. In this connection, we can review our imports from different countries and take measures to reduce as much as possible any effect that a drop in the value of the dollar in the world market can have on our imports. We also discussed constructive proposals we can make to oil exporting countries; that is to say, instead of using the dollar as the basis of our oil prices, we can use other strong currencies and special drawing rights. Thus, fluctuations in the value of the dollar or other currencies would not greatly affect oil prices. This issue needs to be followed up and worked on at a world level in order to be accepted internationally.

The prime minister commented on the Kuwaiti Government's recent policies in the region and that country's intention to create an arena in this region for East-West rivalry, saying: In the first instance, Kuwait and then other countries of the Persian Gulf will suffer from this issue. He added: I think these countries should, gradually, realize that the Islamic republican regime of Iran is decisively insisting on its policies, and the policy of these countries supporting Saddam can not be in their interests. Allowing Saddam to create a crisis in the Persian Gulf presents a situation where not only our country, which relies on its own (?borders) and is a revolutionary country relying on itself, but those countries which have certain commitments and allegiances would suffer and sustain greater damage.

The prime minister stressed: We have repeatedly stated this point which is our official stance, the stance of our government and our people. This stance was announced at our Friday prayers which is an ideological and popular ceremony. No doubt, both the countries of the region and at the world level — every one — realizes how serious we are about the policy we have announced. It should be known that we will insist on these policies to the end.

Kuwait Warned To Give Up Support For Iraq

LD090916 Tehran IRNA in English 0840 GMT 9 May 87

[Text] Damascus, May 9, IRNA — Imam Khomeyni's representative to Syria and Lebanon Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Fahri in his Friday prayers sermons here warned the Kuwaiti Government to give up its support for Saddam.

Pointing to the recent political moves to involve superpowers in the Persian Gulf he addressed Kuwait and said that the traffic of Kuwaiti ships flying U.S. and U.S.S.R. flags is not in the interest of Kuwait.

It would be better if Kuwait realized its interests and stopped supporting the Iraqi regime, he added.

Use of Superpower Flags Decried

LD101817 Tehran IRNA in English 1759 GMT 10 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 10, IRNA — Minister of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Mohsen Rafiqdust today warned those Persian Gulf states trying to fly the superpowers' flags on their ships that Iran will decisively thwart any act of mischief in the region.

Speaking in a ceremony commemorating the martyrdom of a revolutionary guard commander here, the IRGC minister warned that Iran will confront Iraq or any other country hatching plots against the Islamic revolution.

Rafiqdust also vowed that Muslim forces of Iran will determine the fate of the Iraqi-imposed war by dealing more blows on the enemy troops one after the other.

"It is too late for the superpowers and their puppet regimes in the region to harness this (political) storm. Nations are going to take their rights from these oppressor governments," the IRGC minister concluded.

U.S. Must End 'Hostile' Backing of Iraq

LD092202 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 9 May 87

[Text] Following a meeting between an Arab League delegation and the U.S. secretary of state, the U.S. Government took a stand against the Islamic Republic of Iran. It announced that the United States was ready to take effective steps against either of the warring parties that refuses to cooperate with the Security Council to end the war.

Commenting on this, a spokesman for our country's Foreign Ministry severely condemned the position taken by the Reagan administration, saying: The United States has prepared a far-reaching conspiracy to oppose the Islamic revolution by shoring up the Iraqi regime and imposing this war on the Islamic Republic of Iran. However, the resistance offered by the Muslim people of Iran has foiled this plot. In its later stages, America's plans to guide the war along a path that would further the interests of America and its allies, that is, a war of attrition without a winner, have all failed. It is patently obvious that the Iraqi regime's defeat is also the defeat of America's policies in the region.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman added: Military aid from the superpowers, along with intelligence, and the military and logistical assistance given by America and its regional allies to Saddam's regime have failed to prevent the repeated defeats of Iraq's disintegrating army. We are now seeing America make moves and adopt policies it hopes will save the Iraqi regime from complete collapse and compensate for the damage it has suffered as a result of McFarlane's trip to Iran.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman, while reiterating the Islamic Republic's unchanging stance on the imposed war, and repeating that Saddam's aggressive regime should be toppled before the conflict can end, declared: It would be better if America and its allies, instead of threatening the Islamic Republic of Iran and

baring their teeth in the Persian Gulf, ended their fruitless support for the Iraqi regime. Were they to take any hostile action against the Islamic Republic of Iran, there would be a wave of anger and hatred among the Muslims of Iran and the world, resulting in further irreparable defeats for America.

Besharati Leaves on Visit to UAE, Africa

LD091409 Tehran IRNA in English 0810 GMT 9 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 9, IRNA — Acting Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati heading a political delegation left Tehran for the United Arab Emirates and several African countries Saturday.

Speaking to IRNA prior to his departure, Besharati said that his visit is aimed at holding talks with the officials of these countries on bilateral relations, international issues and cooperation at international forums.

During the visit, Besharati added, efforts will also be made to neutralise the mischievous attempts of certain countries to create tension in the Persian Gulf region.

"Following the recent victories of the Muslim forces of Iran in the Iraqi-imposed war, certain powers and traditional supporters of Saddam, alarmed at his precarious position have tried to stir up an artificial crisis in the region to prolong Saddam's political life by few days. But the most surprising thing is the Soviet Union's presence in this connection," he added.

Besharati stressed that Iran has repeatedly stated that it will continue the sacred defence of its territorial integrity until the downfall of Saddam and the Ba'th Party. "No factor and motive could prevent us from continuing our sacred defence," he added.

More on the same subject he added that the Islamic Republic considered any force that supports the Iraqi regime as part of Iraqi forces. "It is not in the interest of powers to back a war mongering and criminal regime such as that of Saddam and be a partner to his crimes," added Besharati.

In the Persian Gulf region the Islamic Republic of Iran, he said is only at war with Iraq but desires to expand its relations with other countries.

The U.A.E. officials, he added, will be informed of the sensitive issues of the region. "We hope that those who fan flames of tension will themselves become aware of the dangerous consequences of their actions," he stressed.

Besharati said that Kuwait is alone in its misadventure. "In our view this country has embarked on this action alone and there are those in the region who are not in line with this policy of Kuwait," he concluded.

Besharati Begins Official Visit to the UAE

For coverage of Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Besharati's official visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE], including his meeting with UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, see the Arabian Peninsula section of the 11 May Middle East and Africa *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

Communiques, Reports Detail Recent Battles

Communique No 2830

LD081610 Tehran IRNA in English 1556 GMT 8 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 8, IRNA — A military vehicle, a mortar launcher, a munitions dump and at least 13 bunkers and watch posts of the Iraqi forces were set afire during exchange of artillery fire in western fronts Thursday with enemy forces suffering some casualties.

Announcing the above here Friday, Joint Staff Communique No. 2830 added that exchange of artillery fire also continued in the northwestern fronts raging more heavily in Panjwin operational theater. Two Iraqi vehicles and several gun emplacements were destroyed and some casualties were inflicted on enemy troops.

Two Iraqi patrol units attempted to infiltrate Iranian positions in Panjwin Wednesday night, but were forced to flee when the artillery fire of the Muslim forces opened up on them, the communique said. Movements of enemy motorized columns were checked in Jessan [spelling as received]-Badrah supply axis.

Iraqi tank fire in Nahr-e Anbar and Yabis was silenced and enemy engineering activities in Husayniyah and east of Basra, southern fronts, were disrupted by Iranian artillery fire. Heavy artillery fire of the Muslim forces also suppressed enemy relocation activities in Zobeidat [spelling as received], Nahr-e Anbar and Sharhani, according to the communique.

An Iraqi vehicle, a munitions depot and eight bunkers and watch posts were destroyed and 13 soldiers were killed or wounded when enemy positions in parts of western and southern fronts came under artillery fire of Iranian Gendarmerie forces.

The communique said that Garmak region of Panjwin operational theater was chemically bombed by Iraqi regime Thursday morning as a result of which 10 Muslim combatants were injured.

Journalists Visit Fronts

LD081505 Tehran IRNA in English 1410 GMT 8 May 87

[Text] Sanandaj, Kurdestan Prov., May 8, IRNA — A group of foreign media men, invited by the War Information Headquarters (WIH) to visit the war fronts, inspected part of the areas liberated during Karbala'-10 operations as well as Iraqi military town of Mawout [name as received] Thursday.

Speaking to reporters at an operational headquarters in the northwestern fronts a field commander said that Iranian combatants have acquired precious experiences in the course of the

Iraqi-imposed war, and are capable of launching simultaneous operations throughout war fronts.

Karbala'-10, the commander said, was the fourth continuous attack against the Iraqi forces in northwestern Iran. It was completely successful despite mountainous areas and snow-covered and arduous heights. Iraqi enemy never imagined that Muslim combatants could launch another attack so rapidly against its forces shortly after the victorious Karbala'-8 and Karbala'-9 operations, he added.

The commander said all anticipated objectives were attained in the Karbala'-10 attack and Muslim combatants consolidated their positions despite 10 heavy counter-attacks of the Ba'thist forces. Some 6,000 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and 500 others captured.

During the operations ten Iraqi units were partly or wholly routed with 500 Iraqi troops surrendering themselves to the joint Iranian and Iraqi Kurdish forces, said the commander.

Furthermore, the commander told reporters that whenever the Baghdad regime witnesses Iraqi people's eagerness for the Muslim combatants and their repeated victories in war fronts, it bombs and destroys Kurdish villages. Some 86 villages have to-date been ruined in northern Iraq by the Ba'thist regime. "Iran is to prepare necessary facilities for re-settling the Kurdish refugees in their villages," he added.

"We are religiously obliged to respond to the calls for help of the Iraqi people and they in return have provided great assistance to the Muslim forces in the northwest operations," the commander said.

The visiting reporters are from *Agence France Presse*, U.S. daily *Washington Post*, London *Times*, U.S. CBS television network, German and Swedish televisions, Japanese dailies *Sankei Shimbum* and *Yomiuri Shimbun* as well as television network, French daily *Le Figaro*, and Turkish and Canada press televisions.

Iraqis Use Chemical Weapons

LD091038 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0230 GMT 9 May 87

[Text] According to a Central News Unit correspondent's report, while members of various mass media were inspecting the "Karbala'-10" operational zone, the Iraqi Ba'thist criminals subjected two border villages in the district of Baneh, called Abol-Hasan and Sarsul, to chemical bombing which injured a number of the defenseless inhabitants of these two villages.

During this savage attack a number of combatants of Islam and 12 defenseless inhabitants of these two villages, including three women, four children and one infant, sustained injuries and were taken to the hospital in the town of Baneh to receive treatment. According to this report, foreign correspondents who were in the region visited the injured in hospital in Baneh, and while talking to them they also prepared documented reports about the results of the use of chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime against the deprived Kurdish people.

Kurds Mount 'Daring Operations'

LD091434 Tehran IRNA in English 0910 GMT 9 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 9, IRNA — Combatant forces of Iraq's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) together with forces of Ramadan headquarters for irregular warfare of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) in a series of daring operations in Dahuk and Irbil Provinces, northern Iraq inflicted fatal blows on the Iraqi enemy, recently.

An official for irregular warfare of the Khatem ol-Anbiya' joint army and IRGC headquarters told IRNA that during the past two weeks combatant Kurds employed various tactics successfully in their operations in the two said provinces.

He said that the Kurds by penetrating into cities and townships of the two provinces, attacked Iraqi military convoys, and destroyed Ba'thists' bases, avenging the destruction of Kurdish villages by the Iraqi regime. The Kurds killed or injured tens of Iraqi forces and captured scores of others.

Meanwhile, he added, hundreds of armed Kurds arrayed to fight against combatant Kurds by the Baghdad regime, put down their arms and surrendered themselves.

The official said that combatant forces by penetrating into Sangsar township, killed a number of enemy forces including several officials of the Ba'th Party.

In their blitz attacks on a gas station, a military base, and the office of the local security organization in the city of Imadiya, the combatant Kurds destroyed the establishments and killed or injured a number of Ba'thist forces. They all returned to their bases safely.

The Kurds also penetrated into the city of Chaqlawah twice, once capturing six Iraqi agents and the second time carrying out the revolutionary execution of an intelligence officer, Hassan Ahmad Khamir, the official noted.

The combatant Kurds set two personnel carriers and an artillery piece afire in Shiladiya region and killed eight Iraqi forces including Major Hassan, and injured 19 others in Bamarni township.

In another attack on a military column in Imadiya-Durluk Road, an Iraqi armoured vehicle was set ablaze and forces of the column were killed. A police outpost and a Ba'th party base were also attacked by combatant Kurds in Dirluk-Shiladiya Road in which a great number of Iraqis were killed or wounded, and six military vehicles were destroyed.

In an attack on the Dahuk-Mangish Road, an Iraqi military column was destroyed and its personnel were killed or injured. Five vehicles were also destroyed.

The official added that in an ambush in the Kani Massi region, combatant Kurds killed or injured 15 Iraqi forces and captured 10 others. A great amount of munitions was also seized.

He said that parts of the operations of the combatant Kurds were

launched in order to halt Iraqi destruction of Kurdish-populated villages.

In a clash with Iraqi forces intending to destroy Sham-Kan village, combatant Kurds killed seven Iraqis including Second Lieutenant Nasir Husayn and injured and captured scores of others. A large amount of light and heavy weaponry were seized by the combatant Kurds and 123 armed Kurds [as received] surrendered themselves to the combatant forces.

The official said that in repelling the attack of Division 38 of Iraqi Army which intended to destroy a number of Kurdish-inhabited villages, a large number of Iraqi forces were killed out of whom bodies of 33 are still in the area. Besides two military vehicles were destroyed and three Iraqi personnel were captured.

Meanwhile, Iraqi forces which intended to break the siege of Kani Massi region, were forced to retreat by the combatant Kurds, sustaining heavy casualties and losing a helicopter, in the process.

The combatant Kurds also attacked a battalion in Kani Massi-Zakhu Road, capturing the battalion's headquarters and seven nearby bases. An Iraqi helicopter was downed in this operation and its seven member crew was killed. Nine tanks and personnel carriers were destroyed and 200 light weaponry, 14 wireless sets, a mortar launcher and an anti-aircraft artillery piece, were seized intact by the Kurds. Forty personnel of the battalion were captured, including 10 officers and NCOs. The enemy sustained heavy casualties.

The official concluded by saying that rightful struggles of combatant Kurds against the Iraqi Ba'thists would continue till the achievement of final victory, in the imposed war.

Guerrillas Destroy Munitions

LD091540 Tehran IRNA in English 1528 GMT 9 May 87

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., May 9, IRNA — A group of Iranian guerrillas infiltrated Iraqi positions in Val-Fajr-8 operational region Friday night and set afire several enemy munitions depots in the area.

Smoke resulting from explosion of heavy Iraqi weaponry covered the region for several hours. Val-Fajr-8 operational theater is near the Iraqi port city of Faw which was liberated by Muslim combatants in February 1986.

Communique No 2831

LD091619 Tehran IRNA in English 1604 GMT 9 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 9 IRNA — An Iraqi MIG-21 fighter was shot down by antiaircraft fire of the Muslim forces in Mahshahr naval region, Khuzestan Province, at 05:15 GMT today and crashed in the Persian Gulf waters, according to the Joint Staff Communique No. 2831 released here on the same day.

The communique added that several Iraqi helicopters appeared over the region 50 minutes later, in search of the plane's pilot. Iranian anti-aircraft fire also shot down an Iraqi helicopter on heights 2285 when several of them attempted to carry out reconnaissance mission over Garmab operational region of Sar Dasht. The other enemy copters fled the area.

The communique said that Iraqi warplanes chemically bombed 'Bolhassan' [spelling as received] village of Baneh, Kurdistan Province, Friday afternoon, wounding a group of civilians.

Artillery fire of the Muslim forces set ablaze an Iraqi munitions dump and inflicted 80 percent damage on an enemy base in Piranshahr, Haj 'Umran and Sar Dasht operational theaters where Iranian patrols discovered a considerable number of gas masks as well as military equipment, while patroling strategic arms.

Some Iraqi warplanes appeared in Sar Dasht air space several times Friday but were forced to flee by Iranian anti-aircraft fire before carrying out operations.

During the exchange of artillery fire in Bakhtaran and Ilam border areas, the Muslim forces destroyed parts of enemy positions as well as several watch posts. Two Iraqi patrols were checked and brought under the fire of Muslim combatants in Helaleh and Sumar regions with enemy troops fleeing from the region and suffering casualties and losses.

Exchange of sporadic fire continued in the southern fronts being somewhat more intense in Zobeidat and Nahr-e Anbar [spellings as received] where Iranian forces halted relocation activities of the Iraqi armoured and artillery units.

Iraqi Chemical Warfare Decried

NC101018 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0445 GMT 10 May 87

[Unattributed commentary from "Developments on the Fronts" feature]

[Excerpts] At a time when the UN team of experts has yet to announce the results of its latest inquiry into the use of chemical weapons and bombs on the battlefield, and while all freethinking individuals and independent international circles are condemning the use of such weapons in war, the ruling regime in Baghdad has once again embarked on a series of atrocities, launching another chemical attack on the fronts, as well as on two villages in the environs of Baneh District.

This particular atrocity, which wounded and martyred innocent women and children, not only added a new page to the book of Saddam's crimes and showed his indifference to all international norms and moral principles, but also strengthened our resolve to continue the sacred defense of our heroic nation against such an inhuman regime. By perpetrating such an atrocity, the ruling regime in Iraq revealed its true nature and further affirmed the justice of our slogan: "War, war until victory." Iran asks all those who talk about peace with Saddam and who advocate both a political and friendly rapprochement as the most appropriate way to end the war: Have you seen the chemically blinded eyes of our innocent children? [passage omitted]

The Iraqi regime repeatedly uses chemical weapons on residential areas, even though the UN Security Council, on the basis of reports submitted by a UN team after visiting the front, has officially condemned Iraq for using chemical weapons in recent years. However, it appears that the world today is content to issue statements and communiques, and does not bother about what is really going on. Hence, when control over chemical weapons was discussed at the UN disarmament conference in Geneva in the current month of Ordibehesht [21 April-21 May], there were no tangible results. In fact, one of the Western correspondents said: Any kind of an agreement regarding a ban on chemical weapons is merely cosmetic unless accompanied by intensive and complete investigations. It will not be very different from the 1925 Geneva Convention, in which some people's peace-seeking hopes were jotted down on ineffectual pieces of paper for years.

Yes, dear friends, this is the kind of world we live in, a world in which man realizes that rights are to be demanded and not to be given up willingly. In view of this kind of world, our nation knows that the only way of obtaining its rights is to continue its operations and keep the fronts manned. [passage omitted]

Along with Iraq's use of chemical weapons, the propaganda network of the media of world oppression, which has always worked to conceal the true facts about the war, once again embarked on a campaign to divert attention away from this Ba'thist crime and to eclipse it with another fabrication. *The Washington Post* published a report on the great danger posed by Iran's possession of a nuclear bomb. The report closed by stating that no decision has been made on measures to be taken to keep nuclear arms out of Iran's hands. By dropping such ambiguous hints, they are obviously soliciting action from other countries to prevent a disaster and, even then, they do not mention Iraq's unlimited and unrestricted use of chemical weapons. Thus, they attempt to conceal such clear issues behind veils of ambiguity to provide one more opportunity for the Ba'thist Party. How effective their subterfuge actually was has been proved by the international correspondents who visited the Karbala'-10 operational sectors. [passage omitted]

Communique No 2832

LD101533 Tehran IRNA in English 1515 GMT 10 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 10, IRNA — Iran's navy gunboats intercepted and inspected 15 cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Saturday but allowed them to continue voyage since they were not carrying any suspicious goods for Iraq.

Announcing the above here Sunday, the 2832nd Joint Staff Communique said that Iranian forces maintained their fire superiority over Iraqi troops in the northwestern fronts yesterday, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and destroying a munitions dump, a heavy engineering vehicle and several gun emplacements of theirs.

Several Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and 13 enemy gun emplacements and one munitions dump set ablaze in parts of the southern and western fronts yesterday when shelled by Iranian gendarmerie forces.

Iranian artillery fire thwarted efforts of Iraqi troops to move some of their artillery pieces from Nalpariz theater to Sayyid Sadiq on Saturday.

In the western fronts Saturday, Muslim forces of Iran continued their defensive war and reconnoitered enemy positions, killing or wounding a number of Iraqi soldiers and destroying two enemy munitions dumps and five bunkers and observation posts.

Iraqi forces suffered substantial casualties and losses when their troop concentration sites in areas overlooking Khosravi, western fronts, came under heavy Iranian artillery fire yesterday.

Relocation activities of Iraqi armoured personnel carriers were checked in Helaleh, southern fronts, yesterday by Iranian artillery fire.

Artillery fire of Iranian combatants ceased movements of Iraqi vehicle columns and tanks on the axes of Meymak-Badra and Helaleh-Neykhazar yesterday.

In the southern fronts, Iraqi forces sustained heavy casualties and one munitions dump and several bunkers of theirs were destroyed on Saturday. Enemy troops were also prevented from digging trenches east of Basra.

A heavy Iraqi vehicle was destroyed and all its passengers killed or wounded when Iranian forces shelled an enemy logistical column in Chazzabeh, southern fronts.

Reconnaissance flights of Iraqi helicopters were halted in Zobeydeh, Bejliyeh and Fakkeh, the communique concluded.

Kurds Attack Town in Irbil

LD101646 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 10 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 10, IRNA — Iraqi Kurdish strugglers (Peshmergas) and Iranian forces under the command of Ramadhan Headquarters captured the Iraqi town of Margsur [name as received], Irbil Province, for eight hours after pitched battles with Ba'thist troops a few days ago.

Announcing the above here Sunday, the Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) reported that a power station, an intelligence center, headquarters of Iraqi Brigade 75, buildings of the Ba'th Party and governorate in Margsur were completely destroyed in the blitz.

The Margsur-Diyanah road was also completely blocked in the operations, the report said, adding that a large number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and many others captured. The report said that the Iranian Muslim combatants and the Kurdish peshmergas returned safely to bases after the operations.

Iraqi Tactical Bases Destroyed

LD101723 Tehran IRNA in English 1717 GMT 10 May 87

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., May 10, IRNA — The newly-built supply and tactical bases of Iraq's 7th Corps along Umm

Qasr-Al-Faw were hit and destroyed by artillery fire of Muslim combatants of Iran Saturday.

In another development, exchange of artillery fire between Iranian Forces and Iraqi troops continued in the Karbala'-8 and Karbala'-5 operational theaters yesterday as a result of which 30 Iraqi soldiers were killed and at least seven enemy vehicles and four loaders destroyed.

Kurds Kill 33 Iraqis

LD101758 Tehran IRNA in English 1720 GMT 10 May 87

[Text] Orumiyeh, West Azarbayjan Prov., May 10, IRNA — Some 33 Iraqi troops were killed and 50 others wounded in 'Yazdnia' [name as received] region in northeastern Iraq last week in a clash with Iraqi Kurdish peshmergas.

The Iraqi troops, backed by several tanks, copters and planes, attempted to destroy five villages in the said region, but were forced to flee.

Three Iraqi soldiers were also taken prisoner in the course of the clash and some vehicles of theirs destroyed.

Indian Tanker Attacked

BK110746 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 11 May 87

[Text] A UNI report from Sharja says a Shipping Corporation of India's oil tanker, B.R. Ambedkar, was attacked in the southern gulf by Iranian patrol boats. This morning there were no casualties but the two missiles launched at the 60,000-ton tanker sparked off a fire on board.

Health Minister on WHO Session, Chemical Weapons

NC100751 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 10 May 87

[Excerpts] According to the Central News Unit, Mr Marandi, minister of health, treatment, and medical education, who had traveled to Geneva at the head of a delegation to participate in the 40th WHO session, returned to Tehran this morning. Upon his arrival, he spoke to our correspondent on the issues discussed there and the outcome of the Iranian delegation's participation in the session.

[Begin recording][passage omitted][Unidentified correspondent] Mr Marandi, as you are well aware, since last year the Ba'thist Iraqi regime has greatly stepped up its chemical attacks on the warfronts of the imposed war, as well on the cities. Could you tell us if there were any specific discussions on this topic at the session?

[Marandi] Every year we try to bring up the issue of chemical weapons, but it has always encountered opposition and has been deleted from the agenda. This year we took up the subject more firmly in the preliminary committee meeting of the WHO, and, eventually, for the first time, it was decided that the use of chemical weapons would be discussed, with our coordination, during the executive committee meeting, that the pertinent information would be obtained and the preliminary discussions held, and that it would be officially incorporated into the agenda for the next WHO session. This is a major breakthrough for us. Despite the opposition of countries such as Kuwait, Iraq, Chile, and others, by the grace of God, we managed, for the first time, to put it on the agenda. God willing, we will finally be able to debate this issue at a WHO session. In my meeting with the WHO director-general, I thanked him and once again requested that he follow up the matter seriously. With the information that we have at our disposal, we can help him. In this way, something concrete can emerge at the next session. [end recording]

DRA 'One of the Most Vulnerable Spots' for USSR

LD101331 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1100 GMT 10 May 87

[Station commentary entitled; "Establishment of an interim government and the resolute hardening of political and military stands by Muslim Afghan revolutionaries"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] It seems that following the breakdown of the plot for national reconciliation, brought about by the steadfast Muslim Afghan combatants, the Kremlin leaders and their hirelings in Kabul are faced with dismay at advancing USSR objectives, such as ending internal disputes — clearly shown by heightened clashes inside the ruling Marxist regime — providing political stability, attracting tribal support, and stopping emigration.

After 8 years of occupying Afghanistan — an historic mistake by the Kremlin — that country has become one of the most vulnerable spots insofar as the USSR's goals for the region and the world are concerned. Recent developments related with Afghanistan, and the continued illegitimate presence by the occupiers and their war machine in various parts of the country, have reached such a pitch that unconditional withdrawal by USSR forces is now unavoidable, because of the pressure of international and regional opinion.

Under existing conditions, while more than 115,000 Soviet troops continue to be stationed on Afghan territory, (?heightening) popular support inside Afghanistan has not only led to resistance by the mujahedin against the occupying forces, but has also inflicted heavy losses on the Soviets due to the daily increase of the pace and dimension of the war.

Given the present trend of the war — which has led to continued supremacy and influence by the Muslim Afghan revolutionaries throughout the Islamic country of Afghanistan — the Kremlin is being forced into planning the withdrawal of its aggressive forces and changes in the pawns inside the present subservient regime and its leaders.

Commentary Warns of Possible Iraqi OPEC Violations

NC091527 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 9 May 87

[Commentary prepared by the Central News Unit Research Group]

[Text] Late last week world market oil prices increased slightly. North Sea Brent oil reached $18.65 a barrel, and oil was sold for $19 a barrel on the New York market. These price increases come with less than 2 months to go before the OPEC ministers' general assembly in Vienna and with the onset of warm weather. The price of oil has always been greatly affected by the advent of warm weather.

Some 5 months ago, during their December 1986 meeting, OPEC members decided to increase oil prices by lowering their production ceiling. This measure halted the drop in oil prices; in fact, prices began to rise. The December 1986 OPEC session's decisions improved the market situation somewhat, not through a new pricing system, but through utilization of the weapon of reduced production. Oil prices soon reached between $17-$19 a barrel, and the world oil market achieved some stability. Of course, many believe that the policy adopted by the most powerful factions of the world's oil industry would lead to a price of $20 per barrel.

Reports in recent months indicate that OPEC's members have abided by the production ceilings set. The West's increased use of strategic reserves during this period demonstrates the OPEC members' diligence in maintaining their production ceiling at 15.8-million barrels a day. In view of the present harmony among the OPEC members and reiterated support from non-OPEC producers, such as the Soviet Union, China, Norway, and other countries, for decreased production, it appears stability in the oil market will continue until the end of the current year and that oil prices will actually reach an average of $20 a barrel.

However, the increased prices of the past few months have not resulted in actual increased purchasing power for OPEC members. World oil prices are generally determined on the basis of the dollar; more than 80 or 90 percent of all oil transactions are conducted in dollars. And since late 1985 the dollar's value in comparison with other international currencies has dropped by about 50 percent, effectively halving the purchasing power of most OPEC members. According to the petroleum magazine PLW, the drop in the dollar's value and international inflation since late 1985 have halved the actual purchasing power of one barrel of OPEC crude. Although the drop in the dollar's value can mean lower oil prices for European countries and Japan, leading to increased demand for OPEC oil, so far this seems to have had little impact in neutralizing the negative effect of the weaker dollar on the economies of OPEC members.

OPEC should seek a rapid remedy to the problems resulting from the weak dollar, and a price incerase under such conditions could be considered a justified countermeasure. But a change in OPEC's pricing system and use of various currencies instead of solely the dollar would be a revolutionary and fundamental move. OPEC has had some experience in this. In the early seventies, due to great fluctuations in the value of the dollar, OPEC set oil prices on the basis of a basket of currencies, known as the Geneva basket, in order to preserve its purchasing power. Although this method was not seriously adopted by OPEC, such a policy remains viable. The organization would face certain difficulties in convincing its dependent members of the benefits, however, and severing ties to the dollar would require a strong political campaign. At any rate, in view of the weakened dollar and the relative improvement in the oil market, it is time some OPEC members proposed discussion of a renewed increase in oil prices at the organization's upcoming session. By preserving the present production ceiling — 15.8 million barrels a day — for the third and fourth quarters of the current year, OPEC can actually achieve higher oil prices.

Meanwhile, OPEC members' possible violations of the production ceiling should be considered. Should an Iraqi regime agreement with an impartial party — Saudi Arabia or Kuwait — remain in effect; once the flow of Iraqi oil exports from (Yanba') port is normalized; and once Iraq's new oil pipeline becomes operational, this regime will undoubtedly increase production and violate OPEC regulations. OPEC members should be alert to the Iraqi regime's violations and subsequent negative impacts on the world oil market. With their bitter memories of the drop in oil prices in 1986, it is unlikely most OPEC members would accept another such drop. But many political and economic factors in the world have weakened considerably, and the danger of another drop in the price of crude oil should not be ignored.

Majlis Continues Debate on Armed Forces Law

LD102024 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 10 May 87

[Text] Here is a report from a Central News Unit correspondent on today's open Majlis session:

In its open meeting today, the Majlis continued its debate on the second reading of the bill dealing with the Islamic Republic's Armed Forces. As a result, 10 more articles were approved. According to one of the articles, the army's mission and duties are: to be ready to meet any sort of military aggression against the independence and territorial integrity of the Islamic Republic of Iran's order and interests; to cooperate with the security forces and the Guards Corps to fight rebels, insurgents, smugglers, and separatists, as well as attempts to topple the country's government when necessary and as instructed; to be ready to cooperate with the Guards Corps in helping the world's Muslim and deprived nations defend themselves against military threat and aggression, as requested and instructed; and to make available their personnel and equipment, as requested by the government, to implement Article 147 of the Constitution, up to a level which, as recognized by the Supreme Defense Council, would not harm the army's combat readiness.

These responsibilities also include continued and consistent efforts for the total rule of Islamic culture and traditions over the army, the Defense Ministry, and their affiliated organizations; preparing the people to defend their country and the Islamic system of government within the framework of the military service law; necessary measures to collect information on sit-

uations, events, and covert and overt military and political developments in the region and the world; and a consistent assessment of threats and resources and the military powers of our actual foes.

The duties also include manufacturing and producing equipment required by the military and security forces; conducting and coordinating research carried out by the army and its affiliated organizations; carrying out repairs which happen to be outside the capabilities of the military and security forces; making all foreign purchases required by the army and the Defense Ministry; defending the rights of the army, the Ministry of Defense, and its affiliated organizations at judicial sources; and providing medical treatment and cooperative services to personnel of the Ministry of Defense, the army, and security forces as well as their affiliated organizations. Among other duties, the Ministry of Defense is required to provide such services to the retired personnel, pensioners, wage earners, and their dependents. According to another approved article, the politico-ideological organization enjoys an independent and centralized chain of commands. This organization's mission is to promote and expand Islamic culture and values in the army, the Ministry of Defense, and their affiliated organizations on the basis of Islamic standards and traditions. This is also done according to the plans, guidelines, and instructions issued by the leader and the officials of the politico-ideological organizations of all the units and organisations, meaning those clerics who have completed a [word indistinct] course and who enjoy an adequate political and social concept and who neither belong to nor play any active part in any political organization.

Another article says: The organization responsible for the protection of intelligence in the Islamic Republic of Iran's armed forces enjoys an independent and centralized chain of commands; this organization carries out its mission and duties through cooperation with the Ministry of Information. The organization's mission is: preventing, discovering, identifying, and foiling activities aimed at toppling the government, espionage, sabotage, measures to create disconent, infiltration of political processes, and torpedoing the accomplishment of missions. All these are aimed at protecting the Army and Ministry of Defense as well as the affiliated organizations through protecting the personnel, information, documents, papers, buildings, installations, and equipment and through establishing security and communcation. On the basis of the same article, the organization is also required to collect news reports, produce, analyze, and classify the required data; discover and foil plots and subversion, espionage, and sabotage activities; prepare security plans and projects; train and guide the personnel of the army, the Ministry of Defense and the affiliated organizations; report the intelligence and security data to the Ministry of Defense; identify and discover their personnel's political activities and any infiltration of political processes and organizations in the army and the Ministry of Defense and the affiliated organisations; also, identify and discover cases of sabotage and insubordination in the implementation of missions.

The head of the organization responsible for the protection of intelligence will be appointed by the honorable leader from among the individuals approved by him; the order for his appointment will be issued by the chief of the joint staff. He will carry out his duties under direct order from the honorable leader. He is required to take immediate steps to inform the public prosecutor and the commander of the Guards Corps in cases of attempts to topple the government and cases of major sabotage. The organization is also required to inform the politico-ideological organization of any politico-ideological and morale deviation committed by the personnel which it becomes aware of during its operations.

Official Statement on 'Zionist' Raids in Lebanon

LD091904 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 9 May 87

[Text] In the wake of another air raid by the forces occupying Jerusalem against innocent Palestinians in southern Lebanon, our Foreign Ministry has issued a statement. It notes: In continuation of its crimes and acts of aggression against innocent Palestinian Muslims, the regime occupying Jerusalem has caused the martyrdom and injury of a large number of defenseless Muslims through its diabolical and intensive bombing of homes east of Sidon. This recent bombing, the 15th raid in 4 months, clearly shows the depth of the Zionist regime's savage nature. It proves that all the attempts and efforts being made by the regime in collaboration with certain reactionary Arab states to promote the so-called Middle East peace are simply a sinister pretence aimed at misleading world public opinion. It proves that the regime occupying Jerusalem is nothing but one that resorts to ruthlessness, massacres, bombing, the crushing of Palestinians, slavery, torture, and the violation of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian nation.

Regrettably, at the height of Israel's barbarous raids on the innocent Palestinian people, some Palestinian leaders voice their readiness to enter into negotiations with the Zionist leaders on decisionmaking issues. It seems that while armed struggles in southern Lebanon and inside the occupied territories against the Zionist foe point to the horizon of liberation of the beloved Jerusalem for the Palestinian nation, certain compromising Palestinian officials are talking of a Greater Israel embracing two nations. While condemning the Zionist regime's barbarous acts committed against the innocent Palestinian people in southern Lebanon, and expressing its sympathy to these deprived people whose homes have been devastated by the enemy's bombings, and their hopes have been turned into despair through betrayal by the compromise of certain individuals, the Foreign Ministry calls on Muslim nations, the world public, and international bodies and organizations to respond to the aggressive acts committed by the Zionist regime.

The Islamic Republic of Iran also hopes that the Muslim Palestinian nation, having rejected those who compromise, has made use of historical experience to prove that the liberation of usurped Palestine and the restoration of the Muslim Palestinian nation's rights are only possible through an all-embracing struggle against the Zionist regime. Thus, we also hope that it will step up its wrathful struggle and, by relying on weapons based on faith, will make the sacred aspirations of Palestine a reality.